### United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

### 1. Name

historic <sup>B</sup>	elen Hotel			
and/or common				
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	200 Becker Avenu	ae		not for publication
city, town B	elen	vicinity of	congressional district	'cl_st
state New Mex	ico cod	e 35 county	Valencia	<b>code</b> 061
3. Clas	sification			
Category — district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status <u>×</u> occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted x yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	<pre> museum  park  private residence  religious  scientific  transportation  other:</pre>
4. Owr	ner of Prope	rty		
name Car street & number	ol Thomas P. O. Box 1252			
city, town Los	Lunas	vicinity of	state	NM
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Descripti	on	
courthouse, regi	istry of deeds, etc. $v_{a1}$	encia County Court	nouse ,	
street & number				
city, town Los	Lunas		state	NM
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Surveys	
title State Reg	gister of Cultural P	roperties has this pr	operty been determined el	egible? <u>×</u> yes no
date 8298	80		federal sta	te county local
depository for s	urvey records Hîstori	c Preservation Bur	eau	

city, town Santa Fe,

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	<u>_x</u> original site
<u> </u>	ruins	_X_ altered	moved date
fair	unexposed		

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Belen Hotel is a two-story, red brick building located in a small commercial district. The hotel, like the other businesses in the district, primarily caters to Santa Fe Railroad personnel. The flat-roofed, L-shape plan building has a chamfered corner. This corner, the Decker St. facade, and one bay of the 2nd Street facade are articulated with pilasters. The top of the pilasters and the cornice have corbeling.

Along the 1st story of the front portion of the building are display windows which mark the public areas of the hotel. The left front bay has an inset door and display windows angling into it. The second story of this front section has round arch, double hung windows, grouped asymmetically. Above the left store front is a group of three openings, the center of which was a door, now cemented in. Above the door and in the right front bay are single windows, as is the case at the corner. The front bay along second story has a round window and a round arch window. All the windows for the rear sections are double hung topped by segmental arches. Two doors leading to office space also have segmental arches and tall transoms. The simple cornice of the rear section is broken by chimneys.

Comparison of a photo taken shortly after the building was completed in 1907 indicates that there have been few exterior changes. In the 1940s the corner door leading into the lobby was added. Originally there was a window, of a configuration similar to the others. A second story door, originally used when furniture was hoisted up, has been concreted in. The major alteration, made in the mid 1930's, is a two-story, stuccoed, cinder block addition to the rear. The first story has a laundry room and addition to the kitchen and the second story another guest room. The addition is relatively unobstrusive because it is not in plain view from the front.

More changes have been made to the interior of the hotel. The lower story rooms, at one time, included a cafe, a lobby, two shops, a kitchen, and guest rooms. Now in use solely as a boarding house, the hardwood floors have been tiled and carpeted over and the ceiling material replaced with accoustical tile. All of the doors, except the front center one, have been covered over. Most of the original doors are retreivable underneath. The front stairway has its original banister, but the railings have been added.

Upstairs are 18 guest rooms and several baths. Above the stairway and a central space is a large skylight, which gives the upper story an airiness. Although the tongue-in-grove ceilings remain upstairs, the floors have been carpeted.

The only other structure on the property is an unobtrusive, one story garage to the rear of the hotel. The garage is constructed of adobe and has a flat roof. There are four stalls.

## 8. Significance

1500–1599	0,		<ul> <li>landscape architectur</li> <li>law</li> <li>literature</li> <li>military</li> <li>music</li> <li>philosophy</li> <li>politics/government</li> </ul>	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1907	Builder/Architect		

#### **Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Belen Hotel is significant because it is one of Belen's best examples of the Decorative Brick Style. Mrs. Bertha Rutz built the hotel in 1907 to serve employees of the AT & SF Railroad. She continued to run the hotel and cafe until her death in 1953. Having run the hotel for so many years, she was a well known figure in Belen and with railroad employees.

1907 was an important year for Belen because it was then that the Belen cut-off was completed and the town became a division headquarters. Prior to 1907 the main line of the Santa Fe went from Raton to Las Vegas to Albuquerque and then south along the Rio Grande. Belen was simply another stop. To serve West Texas, and to avoid mountain passes, the Belen cut-off left the main line in western Kansas and rejoined it at Belen. It was this rerouting of freight traffic that brought prominence to both Albuquerque and Belen. The cut-off also necessitated services, such as that provided by the Belen Hotel.

Mrs. Rutz was a German immigrant who arrived in Belen at age 16. For seven years she worked as housekeeper to the president of the First National Bank. In 1907 she purchased the land and built the hotel. She paid \$ 16,000.00 for a mortgage at 8% interest. Mrs. Rutz owned the property until 1953. From 1953 to 1972 Mr. and Mrs. Calloway owned the building. Until the present owners purchased this year, Mr. and Mrs. Hall owned it.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Carol Thomas, information from abstract and local interviews.

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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Belen Hotel Verbal boundary desciption and justification

proceed north along the fence for approximately 30 meters to the alley; proceed east along the south side of the alley for approximately 15 meters to 2nd; proceed south along the west side of 2nd for approximately 30 meters to the starting point.

Justification

The boundary encloses only the hotel building. There is no potential for a district.