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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OCT 13 1993

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 El Vado Auto Court
other names/site number El Vado Motel

2. Location

street & number 2500 Central Avenue Southwest not for publication
city or town Albuquerque vicinity
state New Mexico code NM county Bernalillo code 001 zip code 87104

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] 5/1/90 10-4-93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
[Signature] Director, New Mexico
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] 11-22-93
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

El Vado Auto Court
Name of Property

Bernalillo County, 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	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	Total

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

Hist. & Arch. Resources of Rt. 66 through NM

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Spanish-Pueblo Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls stucco

roof asphalt

other wood

Narrative Description

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

El Vado Auto Court
Name of Property

Bernalillo County, 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.

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)

transportation

architecture

Period of Significance

1937-1956

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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:

El Vado Auto Court
Name of Property

Bernalillo County, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1, 3 | 3 | 4, 7 | 1, 7, 0 | 3, 8 | 8, 4 | 5, 6, 0
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 J. Kammer, Ph.D.

organization contract historian date August, 1993

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

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

7. Description

The El Vado Motel consists of two one-story buildings with flat asphalt roofs, white stucco walls, and concrete foundations. The buildings employ several Pueblo Revival Style elements including buttressed walls, curvilinear parapets, irregular massing, and exposed vigas. Particularly striking are the office/residence fronting the east wing and the lodging unit fronting the west wing which have additional ornamental buttressing framing the entries. This ornate use of the style also appears in the lobby adjoining the office. Exposed vigas supporting a dark wood ceiling, and a raised stucco and tile-framed fireplace and ornate wrought-iron lighting fixture create a picturesque interior. Garage spaces are interspersed between the lodging units and are articulated by stucco-covered support posts. Remaining original windows are double-hung or fixed with wood surrounds. Doors are vertical plank or single wood panel.

Although the property is located at the corner of the block, access to the parking courtyard is limited to the front where a small parking lot is located between the sidewalk and the office. The thirty-two units are organized in a parallel linear plan with the wider office/residence at the front of the east wing extending into the courtyard. The addition of a swimming pool filling the L space in back of the office further encloses the auto courtyard. Landscaping consists of evergreen shrubs planted in front of the office and some of the units as well as three islands with concrete curbs in the middle of the courtyard on which small trees and flower beds are located. An ornate neon sign is located on a metal pole at the sidewalk in front of the office parking area. Alterations to the motel include the removal of gas pumps that originally stood in front of the office, and the addition of the swimming pool, and the replacement of original with metal double-hung windows. Southwest Indian designs have recently been painted on some of the building's facade but do not detract from the integrity or feeling of the building. The spatial arrangement of the

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Section 7, 8 & 9 Page 2

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Description (continued)

property, the relatively unaltered appearance of the buildings including the remaining garages and the ornate use of Pueblo Revival Style elements convey to the property a strong feeling of a 1930s tourist court.

8. Significance

The El Vado Motel is one of the best examples of a largely unaltered pre-World War II tourist court remaining along Route 66 in New Mexico. Built in 1937 along West Central Avenue in anticipation of the realignment of Route 66, the building is the oldest tourist court along the West Central Avenue commercial strip. When it opened, Albuquerque Progress, a business monthly published by a local bank, referred to the motel as offering "swanky tile cabin suites ready for the summer tourist trade." Its longtime proprietor, Dan Murphy, previously manager of the Franciscan Hotel, was one of the best known motel operators along Route 66. Because of this close association with tourism along Route 66, the property is eligible under Criterion A. The property also qualifies under Criterion C for the way in which its setting, location, design and materials reflect early tourist court construction in New Mexico. In particular, the spatial arrangement of the complex and its ornate use of the Pueblo Revival Style recall the evolution of the early tourist court and the emphasis often placed on regional styles. Its current owners are proud of the long association the motel has with Route 66 and hope to maintain its historic integrity.

9. Bibliography

Albuquerque Progress. March, 1937, p.3; June, 1939, p.3.

Hist. & Arch. Resources of Rt. 66/New Mexico
Name of Multiple Property Listing

Bernalillo County/ New Mexico
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 3

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 24-39 of Block 3 of the
Westpark Addition.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes only the portion
of the lots on which the nominated buildings are situated.