

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Alert-Hatcher Building
other names/site number Alert Block; Hatcher Hotel

2. Location

street & number SE corner Second Avenue and Main Street Not for publication
city or town Hillsboro Vicinity
state New Mexico code NM county Sierra code 051 zip code 88042

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], Director 12/14/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
NM Historic Preservation Division
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:)

for
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action 4/20/95

Alert-Hatcher Building
Name of Property

Sierra 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	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Architectural and Historic Resources of
Hillsboro, NM. Part 1: Domestic Architecture

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
HEALTH CARE/medical office/hospital
COMMERCE/department store
DOMESTIC/hotel
COMMERCE/restaurant

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: New Mexico Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Not visible
walls Stuccoed adobe
roof Metal
other N/A

Narrative Description

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

Alert-Hatcher Building

Name of Property

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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)

Architecture

Health/Medicine

Commerce

Period of Significance

c.1884-1944

Significant Dates

c. 1884

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

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:

Alert-Hatcher Building

Sierra County, NM

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid for 1st reference: Zone 18E, Easting 259820, Northing 3645160

UTM grid for 3rd and 4th references

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 Corinne P. Sze, Ph.D.
organization Research Services of Santa Fe date September 1994
street & number 1042 Stagecoach Road telephone (505) 983-5605
city or town Santa Fe state NM zip code 87501

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.

Alert-Hatcher Building
Name of Property

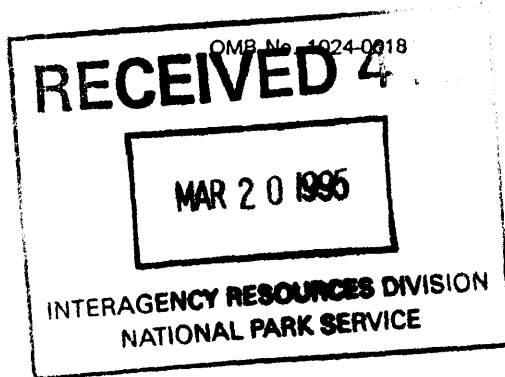
Sierra County, New Mexico
County and State

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(8-86)

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Alert-Hatcher Building is a long, basically L-shaped, one-story, New Mexico Vernacular building extending along the south side of Main Street and up the east side of Second Avenue. It lies at the street line on Main and Second and is contiguous with another building on the east forming an unbroken, block-long facade along Main Street. Constructed of adobe with a rough stucco finish, it has a side-gable, metal roof along Main Street and a flat, metal-covered roof on Second Avenue. At the back a long portal, stretching between the Second Street wing and a room which projects south near the east end of the building, faces south onto an inner courtyard. A small, single-story, L-shaped apartment lies north of the main building on Second Avenue and is connected with it by a continuous wall and a covered passageway that leads from Second Avenue into the courtyard. A small, detached, adobe shed faces the courtyard on the east.

The fenestration of the building is varied. On the west end of the main facade, a double door is flanked by 2/2, wood windows. Proceeding east are two 3/1 wooden windows, a pair of 2/2 wood sashes, a second door, and another 2/2, and a 4/1 wooden window. A thick cement apron extending up to the bottom of the windows stretches along the base of the building along Main, extends a short distance up Second, and continues around the doors, blocking transom windows.

By 1893 the building was part of a continuous line of long, narrow, one-story, adobe buildings extending directly along street line of Main Street without break from corner to corner. The wall of the main facade in which the last window on the east of the Alert-Hatcher Building is set, is less thick than the adjoining wall suggesting that a passageway may have been filled in between the Alert-Hatcher building and its neighbor before the Sanborn Map was drawn in 1893. By that date one room had been built south on Second Avenue. A portal faced Main Street at the west end where a general merchandise establishment occupied a little less than half the building; the remainder was used as a dwelling. Behind the building was an orchard.¹

1. Sanborn Map 1893.

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After the flood of 1914, the concrete apron was added to the base of the building as a protection against water damage. At the same time the exterior was given a pebble-dash finish, and the interior new floors.² The concrete frame around the doors was added later at an unknown date; it does not yet appear in a photograph published in 1942.³

By 1930 the configuration of the house was much as it is today with the exception of an enclosed porch which faces east onto the inner courtyard, added bath and utility rooms south of the enclosed porch, the apartment south of the passageway on Second Avenue, and a small, wood addition at the back of the east end of the building, the latter to enlarge a kitchen probably for the purposes of a restaurant.⁴

The apartment north of the breezeway was built between 1930 and 1935.⁵ At an unknown date in the late 1930s or 1940s the bath and utility rooms were added at the south end of the building where there had been a screened porch. The space north of these rooms was enclosed also at an unknown date. The small wooden addition dates from the 1970s.⁶

After 1983, parts of the metal roofs were replaced where leaks developed, and two aluminum windows on the main facade were replaced with old, wooden, 3/1 windows of unknown origin. In the course of this work, it was discovered that the aluminum windows had themselves replaced doors. The present owner also removed entirely a large, wooden 2/2 window under the west gable facing Second Avenue.⁷ The building is well maintained and well represents its historical associations.

2. *Sierra County Free Press* 15 October 1914.

3. *New Mexico Magazine* May 1942: 13.

4. Sanborn Map 1930. Lewis Hatcher, interview. Helen Evans, interview.

5. Norene Berry, interview. Berry honeymooned there in 1935.

6. Lewis Hatcher, interview.

7. Helen Evans, interview.

Alert-Hatcher Building

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SIGNIFICANCE

This early Hillsboro building is significant architecturally as an example of the New Mexico Vernacular style in a Sierra County mining camp. It illustrates the use of the pattern, long-established in Spanish New Mexico, of placing a single file of adobe rooms near the street line with multiple outside doors, as well as the early lack of stylistic distinction between buildings for domestic or commercial use. By 1893 most construction in Hillsboro followed the Anglo-American preference for separating dwellings from business buildings, and for setting the former somewhat back from the street and extending the latter narrowly back from the street line.

The Alert-Hatcher Building is significant historically as the dwelling and business location of one of Hillsboro's early merchants, then for ten years as the home, medical office, and quasi hospital of Hillsboro's principle physician, and for many years thereafter as the home, hotel, and restaurant of the physician's widow.

The property was purchased on November 7, 1884 by Dolores Alert from John Donahoe, probate judge and trustee of the townsite of Hillsboro. The same day Alert entered into a copartnership with her husband, Jose Alert, in a general merchandising business to last ten years in which Jose was the business manager and Dolores "a full and equal partner." Each was to share losses and gains equally.⁸ In 1885 the business dealt in dry goods, groceries, and general supplies.⁹ It is presumed that the building that was to contain the store and the Alert home was built by 1884 or shortly thereafter.

Born in Spain in 1826, Jose Alert had immigrated to the United States via Mexico in 1853 settling in La Mesilla where he married Luciana Ortega and prospered with a store and granary. After the Confederates confiscated all of his assets, he took his family to Sonora, Mexico. There, after the death of his wife, he married Dolores Mondragon, a native of Mexico. In 1866 they returned to La Mesilla and later moved to Hillsboro. Alert is said to have struck gold and used part of the proceeds to start a

8. Sierra County Deeds, A:288; A-Misc:108, Articles of Copartnership.

9. Sierra County Advocate 14 March 1885.

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mercantile business which is reputed to have offered the first ladies' ready-made clothing in Hillsboro. In 1879 Alert's daughter, Adelaida, married George O. Perrault, who in partnership with Nicolas Galles was one of Hillsboro's early merchants.¹⁰ In 1900 Dolores sold the property to Jose who died eight years later, at about age 82, "a well-to-do merchant of Hillsboro." The next year Jose's daughter quitclaimed her interest in the property to his widow, Andrea Silva de Alert. Silva sold it to Tom Wedgwood in 1912.¹¹

Wedgwood was a rancher who did not live in the building.¹² After the flood of June 10, 1914, he renovated it, then known as the "old Alert Block," turning it into "a creditable addition to the business buildings of the town." To counter further flood damage, a concrete apron was added around the base to the building. One of the largest rooms was fitted up for the post office and the building reputedly housed a saloon for a time.¹³ It was presumably the location of the Wedgwood Hotel listed in the late teens in the New Mexico State Business Directory. In 1920 Wedgwood sold the property to Dr. J. O. Hatcher and his wife Nell.¹⁴

Born in 1878 in Imboden, Arkansas, John Octavius Hatcher graduated from Vanderbilt University Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1901. He was licensed in New Mexico in 1913, and before coming to Hillsboro in 1916 or 1917, practiced in Deming and Heaton, New Mexico.¹⁵ Hatcher established his home and medical office in the building he bought from Wedgwood, as

10. United States Census 1900. Helen Evans, interview. Leonard P. Perrault, "Early Settlements, Hardships, and Life on the Mimbres," unpublished manuscript, 1979. Silver City Museum.

11. Sierra County Deeds, E:271; C:552 quitclaim; F:216. *Silver City Enterprise* 12 June 1908.

12. Lewis Hatcher, interview.

13. *Sierra County Free Press* 15 October 1914; 10 December 1914; 11 December 1914. Lewis Hatcher, interview.

14. Sierra County Deeds, F:688.

15. New Mexico Board of Medical Examiners, minutes, 1913. *American Medical Directory*, 4th ed. 1914; 5th ed. 1916. *Polk's Medical Register and Directory of North America* (Detroit: R.L. Polk and Co. 14th ed. 1917).

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well as a small hospital providing medical care to the community of Hillsboro until 1930. From 1925 to 1928 he also served as county superintendent of schools.¹⁶

When Dr. Hatcher owned the building, the rooms from the east end on Main Street were occupied by a hospital room, a waiting room, and an office with an operating room behind it. The latter, which juts out from the back of the building to the south first appears on the 1930 Sanborn Map and was built by Dr. Hatcher in the 1920s according to his son. East of the office were two more rooms for patients. Proceeding west, the Hatcher's bedroom adjoined the living room which was entered through the double doors on the main facade. The present large, front, corner room was divided by a colonnade (now removed) built out from the side walls, distinguishing the living room from the dining room on the corner. South of the dining room, extending up Second Avenue were the family kitchen and two bedrooms for the Hatchers' two sons. A screened porch at the south end of the house opened east onto the courtyard.¹⁷

In 1930 the Hatchers moved to Deming where Dr. Hatcher practiced medicine for a short time before succumbing to a stroke at the age of 51.¹⁸ In 1931 Nell Hatcher moved back to Hillsboro and established the Hatcher Hotel advertised as "Hillsboro's best" having modern rooms, shower and tub baths.¹⁹ Guests included primarily traveling salesmen and others who came to do business in Hillsboro, as well as people from the surrounding ranches in town for a few days. Later Mrs. Hatcher also had a restaurant where Dr. Hatcher's office had been, the operating room serving as the kitchen.²⁰

16. New Mexico State Business Directories. Lewis Hatcher, interview. *History of Sierra County, New Mexico* (Truth or Consequences, N.M.: Sierra County Historical Society, 1979) 39, 53.

17. Lewis Hatcher, interview.

18. Lewis Hatcher, interview.

19. New Mexico State Business Directory 1938.

20. Lewis Hatcher, interview.

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Nell Hatcher continued her businesses until about a year before her death in 1976 at the age of 94. In 1975 the building was sold to Blanche V. Johnson and Elton Reese who continued to have a restaurant, Blanche's Cafe, and also their home there.²¹ The present owner purchased the property in 1983 and eventually closed the restaurant. The building now contains apartments and the residence of the owner.

21. Sierra County Deeds, 38:507.

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SOURCES

- American Medical Directory*. 4th ed. 1914; 5th ed. 1916.
- History of Sierra County, New Mexico. Truth or Consequences*,
N.M.: Sierra County Historical Society, 1979.
- New Mexico Board of Medical Examiners. Minutes, 1913.
- New Mexico Magazine* May 1942.
- New Mexico State Business Directory*. Denver: The Gazetteer
Publishing and Printing Co., various dates.
- Perrault, Leonard P. "Early Settlements, Hardships, and Life on
the Mimbres." Unpublished manuscript, 1979. Silver City
Museum.
- Polk's Medical Register and Directory of North America*. Detroit:
R.L. Polk and Co. 14th ed. 1917.
- Sanborn Maps 1893, 1898, 1930.
- Sierra County Advocate* 14 March 1885.
- Sierra County Deeds.
- Sierra County Free Press* 15 October 1914, 10 December 1914; 11
December 1914.
- Silver City Enterprise* 12 June 1908.
- United States Census 1900.

Interviews

- Berry, Norene 13 September 1994.
- Evans, Helen A. 31 August 1993, 11 May 1994.
- Hatcher, Lewis Dalton 18 August 1994.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 26: lots 2, 3, 4, 5. Hillsboro original townsite.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Lot and block numbers of the historic property as shown on the map filed for the record 14 December 1887 and on the 1930 Sanborn map.

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INFORMATION COMMON TO ALL CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Alert-Hatcher Building
2. Sierra County, New Mexico
3. Corinne P. Sze
5. Historic Preservation Division
Santa Fe, New Mexico

INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS

4. May 11, 1994
6. North and partial west facades. Camera facing southeast.
7. Photo #1

4. August 31, 1993
6. Partial north and west facades. Camera facing southeast.
7. Photo #2

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH

1. Alert-Hatcher Building
2. Sierra County, New Mexico
3. Unknown
4. c.1940
5. Unknown
DOD Collection #7537
State Records Center & Archives
Santa Fe, New Mexico
6. Main Street, Hillsboro. North and partial west facades of
Hatcher Hotel on the right. Camera facing southeast.
7. Photo #3