

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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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 Aztec Auto Court

other names/site number Aztec Lodge

2. Location

street & number 3821 Central Avenue NE  not for publication

city or town Albuquerque  vicinity

state New Mexico code NM county Bernalillo code 001 zip code 87108

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.)

Ann W. Hill SATPO 10-4-93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Historic Preservation Division, State of 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): \_\_\_\_\_

8/11 Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Betty L. Savage 11-22-93

Aztec 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	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	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)

Southwest Vernacular

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls stucco

roof asphalt

other metal

**Narrative Description**

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

Aztec Auto Court

Bernalillo County, NM

Name of Property

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

1933-1956

Significant Dates

1933, 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:

Aztec 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	5	4	0	5	0	3	8	8	2	8	4	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

  
2 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

3 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

  
4 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

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 ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection 7 Page 1Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM  
Bernalillo County

## 7. Description

The Aztec Auto Court consists of two one-story buildings and a two-story office/residence. Buildings have flat asphalt roofs with a gravel buildup, beige stucco walls over tile block, and concrete foundations. The motel's details convey a modest use of Southwest Vernacular Style elements including a stepped parapet, stepped massing of the second-story portion that includes viga-like supports of a porch, a rough stucco finish, and small flat-roofed stucco porches or slight red tile hoods over some of the entries. Most of the single and grouped one-over-one double-hung windows are original with a few metal casement and aluminum sliding windows marking replacements, the latter at garage infills done in the 1950s. Most of the doors are wood panel, and the door to the office is wood frame with a large light.

The property is organized in a parallel linear plan forming a courtyard between the two lines. "Ghosts" of now-infilled rear doors facing the side street appear at some of the east wing units. The office/residence closes much of the courtyard to the street, and a rear driveway permits entry from the side street. Behind the rear driveway, a concrete block wall marks a former patio and playground. Because of the raised contours of the property above the street, the entry to the front unit of the west wing is raised, requiring two steps and a small raised porch. Further landscaping appears in the form of a terrace extending east from the office and wrapping around the east units. The current owner has made an effort to restore this landscaping to its earlier appearance. The motel's sign, a replacement of the original, consists of a large vertical panel with neon, extending out over the sidewalk and supported by a metal post.

Alterations to the motel include the infill of three garages, which increased the number of units to seventeen, and the addition of a 1950s-era metal canopy with wrought iron support posts over the office entry. The spatial arrangement of

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Section 7, 8, 9 & 10 Page 2

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

Description (continued)

the property and the relatively unaltered appearance of the building imbue the property with a strong feeling of a 1930s tourist court.

8. Statement of Significance

The Aztec Auto Court, as it was first known, is one of the best examples of a relatively unaltered pre-World War II tourist court remaining along Route 66 in New Mexico. Built in 1933, four year prior to the realignment of Route 66 along Central Avenue, it is the oldest tourist court along East Central Avenue as well as the oldest functioning motel along Route 66 in New Mexico. Postcards and other advertisements issued after 1937 emphasize its location 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 with its parallel linear plan and its use of building materials such as double-hung windows and tile block associated with building in Albuquerque in the 1920s and early 1930s recall the early date of the tourist court.

9. Bibliography

Albuquerque City Directory. 1933.

Caufield and Caufield. "Nob Hill Motel Study." Prepared for Nob Hill Main Street Inc, 1988. NMSHPO.

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 7-13 of Block 3 of the College View Business Addition.

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