

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered  
MAR 22 1983

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

1. Name

historic Deming Armory

and/or common Deming Luna Mimbres Museum

2. Location

street & number 301 S. Silver Avenue

not for publication

city, town Deming

N/A vicinity of

state New Mexico

code 35

county Luna

code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Luna County Historical Society

street & number P. O. Box 1617

city, town Deming

vicinity of

state New Mexico 88030

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Luna County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Deming

state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

State Register of Cultural Properties

title State Register #584

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date January, 1978

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Bureau

city, town Santa Fe

state New Mexico

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent     deteriorated  
 good         ruins  
 fair          unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved    date \_\_\_\_\_

---

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

The Deming Armory is a two-story brick structure on a poured concrete foundation. The main entrance is an arch and lobby (at the head of a flight of concrete steps enclosed by brick guards) leading to a double metal door. The facade is described by the Deming Graphic of January 14, 1915 as "castellated" (with reference to the decorative concrete parapet and coats of arms). The facade is embellished with belt courses and niches. The roof is pitched, with a single ridge, and has asphalt shingles. It drains to four sumps inside the roof parapets. The building has an attic which can be reached by a set of hinged retractible steps. Above these steps there is a hatch in the roof.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Deming Armory Item number 7 Page 1

There are doors in the west end of the building at the main floor and basement level. The building has a full basement. Concrete lateral stairways lead under the main stairway to the basement entrance. The basement level windows are protected by wire mesh and steel rod barricades. There are two rows of windows above these at the main floor and balcony levels.

The principal dimensions of the building are as follows:

132' X 50' = 6600 sq. ft.  
main room, main floor 4608 sq. ft. (96' X 48')  
main room, ground floor 1728 sq. ft. (54' X 32')  
total interior floor area: 14,000 sq. ft.

The main floor (the "drill hall") has a maple floor. The basement level was originally intended as a social and meeting area for the Guards; it was furnished with chairs and reading tables. Card and locker rooms and showers occupied the basement level rear. The long room on the north side of the basement was equipped for target practice. This space also served as a bowling alley and billiard room.

The plumbing and wiring in the building seem to be, at least in part, replacements of the originals. The building has not been altered otherwise.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1915-16

**Builder/Architect** Trost and Trost

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Deming Armory was built in response to the Mexican Revolution which kept Mexico in a state of turmoil for the decade following 1910, and gave rise to fears of invasion or guerrilla attacks across the border. It was also a response to the war in Europe, and the possibility that the United States might be drawn into the conflict. It therefore illustrates and commemorates America's passage from national or continental military and political concerns, to international involvement and responsibility. The building is also significant architecturally, as a highly specialized structure designed by the prominent firm of Trost and Trost in El Paso. H. C. Trost was the first professional architect to devote a major portion of his career to New Mexico and his firm dominated the State's architectural scene between 1905 and 1925.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Deming Graphic, January 14, 1915  
 Deming Graphic, May 26, 1916  
 Deming Headlight, May 25, 1916  
 Deming Headlight, March 19, 1943

Deming Headlight, July 3, 1953  
 Mrs. Roger Parsons, personal communication,  
 1978

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Deming West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	3	2	4	0	4	0	0	3	5	7	3	1	2	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification E. 71' of lots 13-22 inclusive,  
Deming Townsite, Blk 17. Original and current site of property

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code --- county --- code ---

state N/A code --- county --- code ---

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas W. Merlan, State Historic Preservation Officer

organization Historic Preservation Bureau

date January 5, 1983

street & number 505 Don Gaspar Avenue

telephone (505) 827-8320

city or town Santa Fe

state New Mexico 87503

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Thomas W. Merlan*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 15, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Laura McCluskey*

date 4-21-83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Deming Armory

Item number 8

Page 1

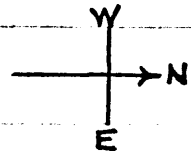
A local contractor named W. W. Barracks oversaw the construction of the building. Excavation for the foundation and basement was completed on January 13, 1915, according to the Deming Graphic; the finished structure was accepted by the Armory Board (Adjutant General H. T. Herring, chairman) on May 25, 1916, from G. A. Trost and W. W. Barracks.

The Armory was vacated by the National Guard on February 8, 1976. In the course of its fifty-year history, the Armory was a training facility for soldiers in two world wars, a recruiting center in war and peace, and a USO headquarters. It also served Deming as a social club; the guard regularly sponsored or permitted dances and fiestas there.

It now serves as the Luna County Historical Society headquarters and Deming Luna Mimbres Museum.

Water Service

Telephone Service



Six Columns (Vertical, Wood)

Fireplace

Ceiling Height 12'-0"

Direct-Fired Gas Heater (Suspended)

Floor Elevation 4'-0" Below Sidewalk

Electric Heater (Suspended)

Lav.

Vent Opening

Scaled Vent

Vent Chimney  
Direct-Fired Gas Heater (Suspended)

? Fireproof Vault

Scale: 1" = 1/16"

Gas Service

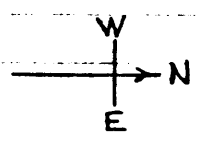
Electric Service

# GROUND FLOOR

11-21-77

FRONT

Concrete Stairway



Direct-Fired Gas Heater (Suspended)

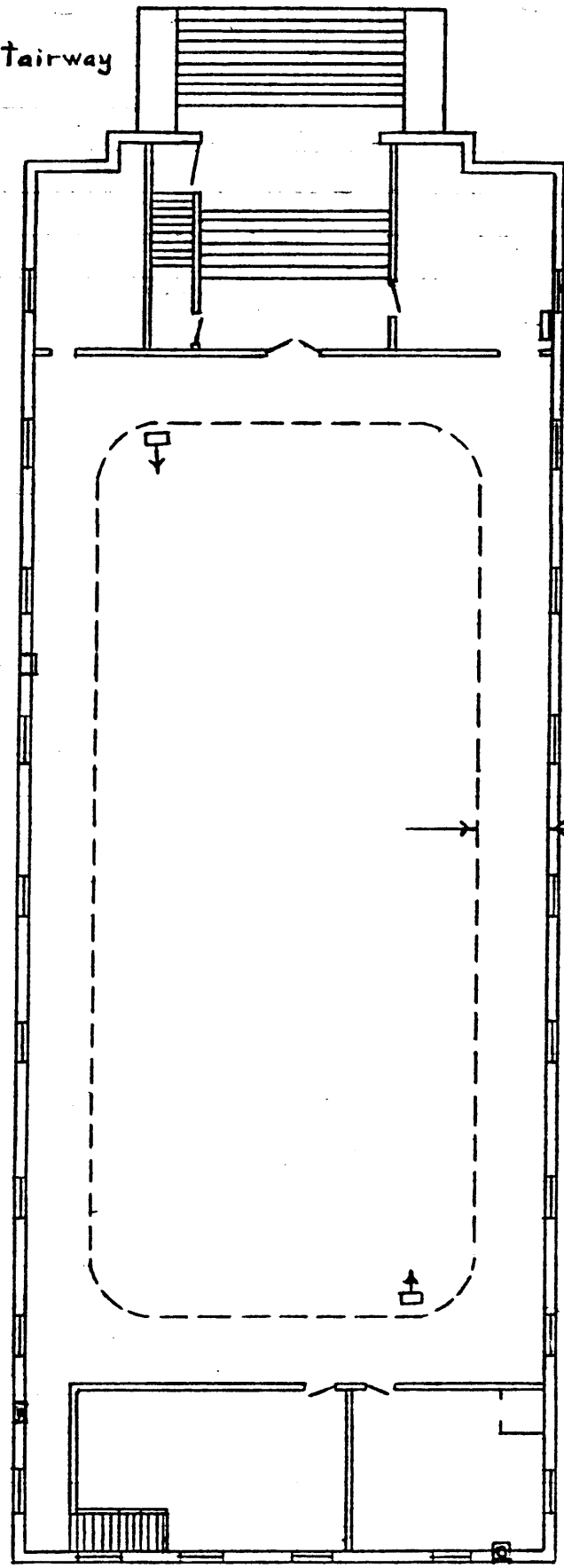
Ceiling Height 17'-8"  
(10'-0" Below Balcony)

Balcony (10' above floor  
(Slope to edge 7" in 6'-3"))

Direct-Fired Gas Heater (Suspended)

Lavatory

Chimney

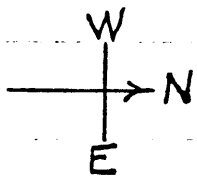
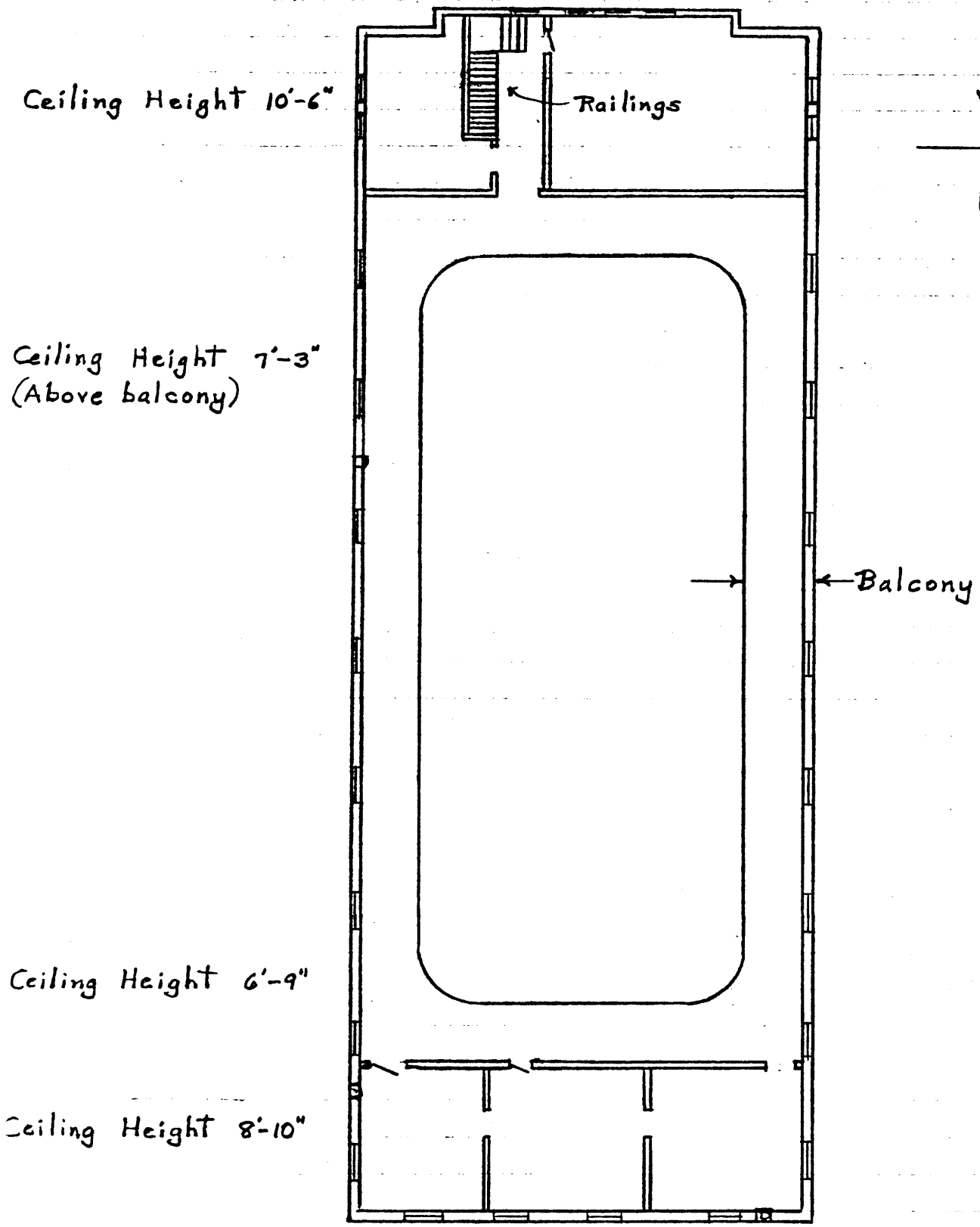


MAIN FLOOR

Scale: 1" = 1/16"

11-21-77





BALCONY FLOOR

Scale: 1' = 1/16"

11-21-77

Armory Bldg, Deming, N.M.)