

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

RECEIVED

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

AUG 8 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

51

Section number _____ Page _____

1. Name
Ritch Hall

2. Location
street & number: On 10th St. S.E. of Fleming Hall, WNMU
city, town: Silver City state: New Mexico code: 035
county: Grant code: NM-017

3. Classification
Category: Building
Ownership: Public
Status: Occupied
Present Use: Dormitory

4. Owner of Property
name: Regents of Western New Mexico University
street & number: Western New Mexico University
city, town: Silver City state: New Mexico

5. Location of Legal Description
courthouse, etc.: Grant County Courthouse
street & number: Cooper and Broadway
city, town: Silver City state: New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys
On State Register of Historic Places.

7. Description
Condition: Fair
Description: Ritch Hall is a masonry and stucco two-story California Mission Revival style building with a basement. It has hipped roofs with asphalt roof shingles and exposed rafters. The roof front above the entrance has a Mission style arch with no details. The entrance has a double leaf wood door with large lites, sidelites and large arched top transomlite surrounded by a recessed arch. The building was remodeled in 1925 and 1948. There was an addition to the south side of the building in 1950 done by John Gaw Meem that does not destroy the integrity of the building or interfere with the main facade of the building. The front of the addition has ornamental terra cotta facade with Ritch coat-of-arms. The building plan with addition is an "L" shape. Ritch Hall was constructed in 1906 as a dormitory large enough for 50 to 70 students. Ritch Hall is located on the east side of the campus where 10th Street meets Louisiana Street. The building was designed by Charles F. Whittlesey who was the first professional architect to work on the campus.

8. Significance
Period: 1900-
Areas of Significance: Architecture
Dates: 1906
Builder/Architect: Charles F. Whittlesey

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

52

Section number _____ Page _____

Statement of Significance, Criterion C: Ritch Hall is one of six buildings on the Western New Mexico University built between 1906 and 1936 that make up the original campus. Ritch Hall is significant because it was the first campus building designed by a professional architect, Charles F. Whittlesey, and the first campus building built in a regional style. The California Mission Revival Style was to be the style for three other buildings on Western's campus during this period and the style for many buildings on four other New Mexico campuses built in the same period between 1906 and 1936. Ritch Hall was constructed as a dormitory in 1906 at a cost of \$30,000, and named after W.G. Ritch, President of the Board of Regents from 1902-1904.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographic Data

Acreage: 0.32 acre
Quadrangle name & scale: Silver City Quadrangle; 1:24,000

UTM References:

Zone	Easting	Northing
12	754650	3629600

Verbal boundary description and justification: On the lands of Western New Mexico University from the the point where 10th St. turns into Louisiana St., proceed in a northwesterly direction 125 feet to the SW corner of Ritch Hall; using the SW corner of the building as the point of beginning, proceed east 150 feet to the SE corner of the building; turn north and proceed 50 feet to the NE corner of the south wing of the building; turn west and proceed 100 feet to the NW inside corner of the building; turn north and proceed 75 feet to the NE corner of the west wing of the building; turn west and proceed 50 feet to the NW corner of the building; turn south and proceed 125 feet to the point of origin (note: this verbal boundary description is not a legal filed description for Ritch Hall. This description is the area around the building measured and described for the Historic Register generally using a landmark as a beginning and ending point for easier reference).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:	Tim Price, Planner	date:	
organization:	Architectural Research Consultants, Inc.	telephone:	(505) 842-1254
street/number:	220-A Gold Ave., SW	state:	New Mexico
city/town:	Albuquerque		