

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Historic Resources of Downtown Gallup
McKinley County, New Mexico

1. Name: White Cafe
2. Location: 100 West 66th Avenue
Gallup, New Mexico
3. Classification:
Category building
Ownership private
Status occupied
Accessible yes: unrestricted
Present Use commercial
4. Owner of Property:
Ernest Kalfas
201 E. Hill Avenue
Gallup, NM 87301
5. Location of Legal Description:
McKinley County Courthouse
205-209 West Hill Street
Gallup, New Mexico
6. Representation in Existing Surveys:
New Mexico Historic Building Inventory
August 1985
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
228 E. Palace Avenue, Rm 101
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503
7. Description:
Condition good
altered
original site

The circa 1928 White Cafe is an ornate decorative brick commercial style building. Located at the corner of Highway 66 and 1st Street, this structure is the most elaborate of the decorative brick commercial style structures in Gallup.

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The White Cafe is a two story, corner building with a flat roof and alley at the rear. The structure is built of blond brick, with dark red glazed brick used as decorative highlight. The top of the cafe is lined with a glazed red brick rowlock parapet cap, below which is a stylistic, dentil-like row also in dark red glazed brick. The upper windows are one-over-one double hung wood sash, with dark red glazed brick arches above and soldier course sills below. Between the upper and lower floors the blond brick is decorated with large, geometric designs.

The ground level of the White Cafe has been only slightly altered. The corner entrance remains the same, although the original single leaf wooden door with full glazing has been replaced. The windows at this level are variously remodeled. The north facade window remains intact with its wooden spindle frieze above and glazed tile below. The windows at the north end of the east side are almost original, the only alteration being the addition of a wainscot to cover the bottom 1/4 of the windows and the loss of some of the glazed tile below. Toward the south end of the east side the windows have been completely covered up. The Mexico Bar, which occupies the southeast corner of the structure has made a few alterations, most of which appear to be reversible. All of the ground floor windows retain their dark red glazed brick soldier course lintels. Some original signage remains in the form of two painted signs on the north and east facades which say "CAFE".

The interior of the cafe has what may be an original pink, blue and off-white ceramic tile floor. Plaster walls are decorated with a painted wood wainscot. The ceiling is not dropped and covered with acoustical tile. The restaurant fixtures appear to be new if somewhat makeshift. Access to the upper floor is through the furthest south door on the east side. The upstairs rooms are unaltered except for some plumbing changes.

From the exterior the White Cafe appears nearly original and remains in good condition. The cafe operates on a limited schedule; the Mexico Bar is in business on a daily schedule. The upper floor is vacant.

8. Significance:

Area of significance architecture
commerce

Period of significance 1928

Criterion A Associated with the second coal boom and with the first tourist boom.

Criterion C A good example of the decorative brick style.

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Builder/Architect unknown

The 1920s White Cafe building is architecturally significant for its use of surface embellishment of the decorative brick commercial style and historically significant for its association with the second coal related economic boom period building flurry, and for its association with the early tourist trade in Gallup.

Historically, this building was constructed during Gallup's second coal related economic boom and first automobile related tourist boom. Due to its central location on Highway 66, the cafe was a stopping point for many travelers, many of whom stayed overnight in the upstairs hotel. The White Cafe proclaimed itself the traveler's headquarters and provided free road maps to patrons. This association with the early tourist days in Gallup makes the White Cafe of historic interest.

Architecturally, the White Cafe is the most ornate of the many decorative brick commercial style buildings in Gallup. The cafe is a departure from the other buildings of this style in the area because of its whimsical and eccentric presentation of colorful details. The designer clearly had a flair for surface embellishment, and created a structure unusually gay for Gallup. It is extremely fortunate that the exterior of this building has never been stuccoed, a common alteration in downtown Gallup.

9. Major Bibliographical References:
See continuation sheets

10. Geographical Data: The nominated property consists of Lot 1

Block 5, of the A&P Addition.

Quadrangle Name: Gallop East

Quadrangle Scale: 7.5 minute

Acreage: less than one acre

UTM References:

Zone 12 Easting 704835 Northing 3933760