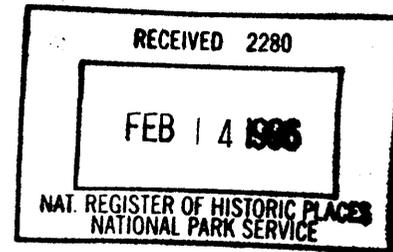


257



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 any 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 Kearny School
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 800 S. 3rd. St.
city or town Raton
state New Mexico code NM county Colfax
87740

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

Signature of certifying official/Title
Date
State or 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.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Edson H. Beall
Date of Action: 3/15/96

National Register of Historic Places

Kearny School
Name of Property

Colfax, NM
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 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 achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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
Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- social history
- education
- architecture
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1936-1943

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Kearny School
Name of Property

Colfax, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

- 1. 113 549700 3881660 3. |||| |||| ||||
- 2. |||| |||| |||| 4. |||| |||| ||||

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 Kammer, Ph.D
 organization contract historian date Sept. 30, 1995
 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 district 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 the 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Kearny School
Colfax County, NM

Description

Kearny School is a one-story elementary school with a rectilinear plan and a reinforced concrete frame. Modestly ornamented in the Art Deco Style, the building has walls consisting of a variegated brown brick veneer with a crenelated parapet capped by bevelled cast stone. The front entry is located at the middle of a symmetrical, stepped facade. Facing east on S. Third Street, Kearny School is located in a residential area with a playground extending around the building on the north and west sides. Classrooms have been added to the rear of the building as has a wing with classrooms and an auditorium/gymnasium at the southwest corner of the building. These additions, however, do not alter the historic appearance of the building's facade nor detract from its feeling as a New Deal property.

One of a relatively small group of public buildings in New Mexico built in the Art Deco Style, Kearny School's facade exhibits a number of the style's characteristic details. Extending the length of four classrooms with the nurse and principal's offices flanking the entry corridor, the facade is stepped to reflect its interior plan. Crenelles capped with bevelled cast stone accentuate the verticality of the piers and pilasters that punctuate the facade. The central entry has a double metal door recessed in an ogee arch articulated by houndstooth decorative brickwork. Two concrete steps and a ramp, installed to meet ADA requirements, lead to the entry's small porch. The remainder of the facade is marked by a series of alternating window bays and piers. Window bays have recessed brick panels beneath the windows with chevron-patterned brickwork above. The windows are 1/1 double-hung aluminum frame with concrete sills and decorative lintels.

The plan of the school is typical of the design used in many schools built as New Deal projects in New Mexico's larger towns. Eight classrooms flank a central corridor, with additional entries at the end of each corridor and at the rear of the entry corridor. In plans for similar schools a combination gymnasium/auditorium was also included and situated at the rear

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7, 8 Page 2

Kearny School
Colfax County, NM

Description (continued)

end of the entry corridor. Omitted from Kearny School's original plans, a wing with additional classrooms and an auditorium was added in 1950.

When the school was completed in 1936, the landscaping included a sandstone retaining wall using stones dating to Raton's first school constructed in 1884. Set above the retaining wall and with its facade unchanged since its construction, Kearny School is in excellent condition and conveys a strong impression as a New Deal project. Raton voters approved a bond issue in 1994 that will permit renovation of the school's heating and electrical systems and the renovation of bathrooms while retaining the historical integrity of the building.

Statement of Significance

Kearny School, a Public Works Administration (PWA) project undertaken and completed in 1936, was one of several school projects completed in Raton by the New Deal. Made possible as a part of the federal government's efforts to stimulate the nation's depressed economy through a massive public works program, the school is a good example of how the New Deal's public works projects affected the welfare of a local community by creating much-needed jobs. The project also resulted in bringing much-needed improvement to the community's educational facilities. It is eligible under Criterion A for its association with local social history and education. Kearny School is also eligible under Criterion C as a good example of the plans, methods of construction, materials and workmanship New Deal projects employed in carrying out hundreds of school construction projects in New Mexico.

Despite the loss of jobs that the Depression brought to Raton's principle industries, the coal mines and the railroad, the town continued to grow and, by the 1930s, found that its two grade schools, built in 1906, were overcrowded even with additions made to both buildings in the early 1920s. In 1936, the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Kearny School
Colfax County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

city applied for and received grants for two PWA projects, construction of a new county courthouse and of a new elementary school. The cost of the school project was \$43,000, \$19,000 of which was a PWA grant. At the time of the grant, the Raton Range commented that the courthouse and school projects "are expected to take up the slack in unemployment and absorb workers laid off by the WPA," a reference to several local landscaping projects that had ended. By the opening of the 1936 school year, the new school had largely been completed. Hailed as a "dandy" school, it relieved the overcrowding in the other grade schools which had forced officials to locate some grade school classes in the high school.

Although no records identify the school's architect, the plan was quite likely prepared by Willard C. Kruger, the state's FERA and, then, WPA architect who had grown up in Raton and who prepared the plans for the other New Deal schools in the community. Despite the unusual use of the Art Deco-inspired ornamentation, the building's plans are similar to plans Kruger and his staff prepared for other schools around the state. As with these other school projects, the large windows providing natural light, indoor plumbing, improved ventilation, heating system, and fire safety features such as outward-swinging double doors were modern details largely absent in Raton's earlier grade schools.

PWA projects, although often requiring more construction skills than the usually more labor-intensive WPA projects, nevertheless were also designed to create jobs for local workers. As a result, they too emphasized the workmanship and labor-intensive work associated with all New Deal projects. The Kearny School furnishes a good example of those labor-intensive skills with its extensive use of brick masonry including the many recessed panels, chevron and dentil ornamentation, and the parapet coping. The project provided a precedent for the construction of three additional brick schools that New Deal programs undertook in Raton.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9, 10 Page 4

Kearny School
Colfax County, NM

Bibliography

Raton Education History (Vertical File). Courtesy of Richard Azar, Librarian, Arthur Johnson Memorial Library, Raton.

Raton Range. Various issues, 1936-1938.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 10-18 of Block 41 of the Original Town Site of Raton

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Kearny School.