

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

Continuation sheet Individual Properties

Item number

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1. NAME: Samuel Shalit House
2. LOCATION: 5209 4th St., N.W.
Albuquerque, NM
4. OWNER: Mr. Joe Powdrell
1728 Spence SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

7. DESCRIPTION:

The Shalit House was constructed in 1936 in the English Cottage revival style, a style unique in this section of Albuquerque. It stands on Fourth Street surrounded by drive-in restaurants and small commercial buildings. It features dominant tall chimneys, copper roof shingles that are rounded at the eaves in imitation of thatch, multipaned metal casement windows (recalling the small-paned leaded casements in English originals) and a highly-textured red brick exterior. The house combines these decorative elements with the modest scale and hip roof that is found in much of southwest residential architecture.

The Shalit House has a broad ridged hip roof that includes boxed soffits, a small gablet, and a hipped dormer on one side. The metal casement windows are 8 paned with transoms above. The home's central livingroom window has a fanlight set under a segmental arch. The brick exterior is notable for its ridged effect and patterning. A large wrap-around porch facing 4th Street includes brick columns with cut-in corners, wrought iron balustrades, and a quarry tile floor. The house's exterior is in excellent condition and is unaltered except for newer curved entry steps which repeat the curve of the porch roof at the entry. These were added in the 1940's. A flat-roofed garage in the rear was built just before the house and served as the owners' residence while the main house was being built. An adobe wall with brick pilasters separates the house from Fourth Street.

The interior is based on revival motifs that include decorative tile work (walls, fireplace, floor), arched cabinet doors, decorative molding, textured swirl patterned plasterwork, and a diagonally set bathtub with a 6'x6' tile mural above. All the original hardwood floors exist as does the interior hardware including a brass ceiling fixture.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

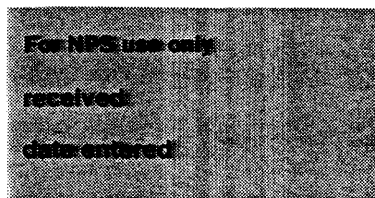
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8. SIGNIFICANCE:

Slightly less than fifty years old, the Samuel Shalit House is exceptionally significant in the state as an uncommonly well-crafted example of the English Cottage/Period Revival style. The house features a copper roof installed to resemble the rounded lines of a thatched roof and uniquely-textured brick. These are not found anywhere else in the city and probably not in the state since this style is rarely found outside Albuquerque. The English Cottage style, in startling contrast to the north valley's prevalent southwestern residential styles, was a foretaste of the large "imported" style houses which have been built in the valley during the last twenty years.

The house was built by local craftsman Ben Chavez and it was probably designed by Mr. Shalit. Shalit's career in Albuquerque was similar to that of other 20th-century immigrants who settled in New Mexico: he had come to Albuquerque in 1919, worked first as a cowboy and sheep herder, and later entered the clothing store business. Like many other Anglos he began buying land in the north valley during the depression of the 1930's. The property on which the house stands used to run west almost to Guadalupe Trail and Shalit raised sheep in the fields behind the house. He later subdivided the property into the Sunvale Addition in 1959.

After a playroom was added on the back in 1938, the house remained as it was built, all interior and exterior detailing intact and well-maintained.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

The house stands on less than an acre; the property is given on MRGCD Map #32 as Lot 001, Block 001, Douglas MacArthur Subdivision

UTM Coordinates: Los Griegos Quad.13/350430/3889040.