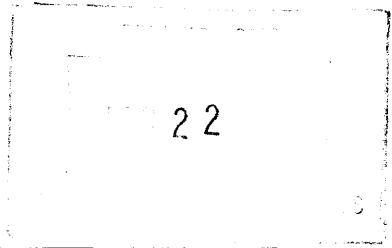


(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



1. NAME OF PROPERTY LORDSBURG-HIDALGO COUNTY LIBRARY

HISTORIC NAME:

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:

2. LOCATION

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| STREET & NUMBER: | 208 E. Third Street | NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A |
| CITY OR TOWN: | Lordsburg | VICINITY: N/A |
| STATE: New Mexico | CODE: NM | COUNTY: Hidalgo |
| | CODE: 23 | ZIP CODE: 88045 |

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Katherine Slich
Signature of certifying official

16 December 2003
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Wilson H Beall
Signature of the Keeper

2/4/04
Date of Action

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: public-local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: building

| NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY: | CONTRIBUTING | NONCONTRIBUTING |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| | 1 | 0 BUILDINGS |
| | 0 | 0 SITES |
| | 0 | 0 STRUCTURES |
| | 1 | 0 OBJECTS |
| | 2 | 0 TOTAL |

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico.

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION/library; GOVERNMENT/municipal building/justice-of-the-peace; HEALTH CARE/county health office

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION/library

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Late 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Pueblo

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION Stone
WALLS Adobe, Stucco
ROOF Asphalt (tar and gravel)
OTHER

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-11).

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- 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 VALUE, 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: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: SOCIAL HISTORY, ARCHITECTURE

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-1937

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1937 (building completed)

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-12 through 8-14).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-15).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- 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 #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- State historic preservation office (*Historic Preservation Division, Office of Cultural Affairs*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Dos Rios Consultants, Inc., P.O. Box 1247, Silver City, NM 88062

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES Zone Easting Northing
 1 12 715808 3581115

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-16)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-16)

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Neal W. Ackerly with assistance from Historic Preservation Division staff.

ORGANIZATION: Dos Rios Consultants, Inc.

DATE: June 2003

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 1247

TELEPHONE: (505) 534-0035

CITY OR TOWN: Silver City

STATE: NM

ZIP CODE: 88062

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see attached USGS Lordsburg, New Mexico Quadrangle)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-17)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS NA

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Hidalgo County

STREET & NUMBER: Hidalgo County Courthouse, 300 Shakespeare Street

TELEPHONE: (505) 542-9428

CITY OR TOWN: Lordsburg

STATE: NM

ZIP CODE: 88045

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

Description

Summary

The Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library is a single-story adobe building constructed in 1936-1937 as part of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) cost-sharing program with the Town of Lordsburg and Hidalgo County. The library is situated west of the corner of Third Street and Second Avenue within the town limits of Lordsburg, New Mexico. The library is approximately rectangular in plan, measuring at a maximum 61.0 by 54.3 feet or 3,057 square feet. There have been a minimal number of alterations to the building. With the exception of the enclosing of the courtyard, the building retains its original floor plan and the majority of its character defining features.

As is true of much WPA-era construction in New Mexico, the Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library conforms to the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style. As its name suggests, this style borrows from Indian and early Spanish architecture of New Mexico. The style is nominally typified by adobe (or adobe colored) walls, flat roofs, sloping buttresses, rough-hewn wooden lintels, and round log columns and *vigas*. The library is located in the northeast corner of the Hidalgo County Courthouse Park, a city block-sized rectangle defined by a low stuccoed adobe wall that was erected by the county in 1930. Two maple trees that were planted at the time of the building's construction shade the north side of the site. Several additional shade trees and a large pine flank the building on its east side (fig. 7-1).

Exterior

In plan, the building was originally constructed as an "H" formed by three main volumes; two parallel rectangular single-story volumes running north to south that comprise wings containing the reading rooms for the library, and a smaller, but two-story volume that connects them and serves as the foyer and circulation area for the building (fig. 7-2). The principal façade, or north elevation of the library consists of the north walls of these three volumes. The principal entrance to the library is located in the center of the two-story volume and is framed by a pair of carved wood corbels that support the wooden structural elements of a shallow *portal*. A pair of clerestory windows are located above the entrance at the second story level. A cornerstone, located in the northeast corner of the building, gives the date of construction and identifies the building as a WPA project.

The library has a flat roof with a continuous parapet extending along all sides of the structure. The ends of the *vigas* that support the roof of the building extend through the adobe and beyond the vertical plane of the exterior walls. Non-functional, decorative *viga* projections are attached on the exterior wall surfaces at locations that run perpendicular to the line of the true, load-bearing *vigas*. This effect creates a continuous "frieze" of *viga* projections and provides a unifying decorative characteristic to all elevations of the building. The top surfaces of the projecting *vigas* are clad in sheet metal to deter rot.

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Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

The space to the south of the two-story volume and between the reading rooms, the eastern most of which is both wider and longer than its companion, originally formed a open courtyard. Subsequent alterations have enclosed this space in order to expand the building's interior space. The enclosed courtyard now serves as the librarian's office.

Decorative wooden lintels surmount the windows on the library. They are composed of pine logs that have been cut in half lengthwise to form half-round profiles. The lintels are attached to the stucco above the windows with three large iron bolts (fig. 7-3). The sills of the windows in the building are stucco and project slightly from the plane of the building's walls. The windows on the north and east elevations are square in proportion and consist of paired sets of 2/2 double-hung wooden sash. The windows on the north and east elevations are covered by wrought iron grilles formed of evenly spaced vertical bars topped by decorative scroll work. The grilles secure all but the upper quarter of the window expanse.

There are three evenly distributed double-casement windows toward the north end of the west elevation. They are also square in proportion, but are significantly smaller than the windows on the other elevations. The original glazing in these windows was replaced with stained glass panels in the 1980s, as was that in the two rectangular single-casement windows at the second-story level of the entry. A rectangular 2/2 double-hung window is located near the south corner of the west elevation. Two similar windows are located on the south elevation of both the east and west reading rooms.

The entrance to the building is composed of a pair of carved wooden doors installed in 1987 as replacements for the original vertical plank doors. The entrance is flanked by two wrought iron lanterns.. The doors are surmounted, like the windows in the building, with a wooden lintel. The main timbers supporting the vigas that form the shallow porch roof over the entrance preserve a rough finish made by an adze.

Interior

The Foyer (room 9), which has a square footprint and is two-stories in height, contains the circulation desk for the library. This piece of furniture, which has been modernized through the application of plastic laminate on its counter and front surfaces, is contemporary with the construction of the library. A door, placed centrally in the wall behind the circulation desk leads to a small rectangular office for the librarian (room 10). An opening in the south wall of this room leads to a space, enclosed in the 1960s, which was originally an open courtyard (room 11). A large wrought iron chandelier is suspended from the ceiling of the foyer, which is also illuminated by light coming through the two clerestory windows. The ceiling of the foyer features exposed *vigas* as do all the other rooms in the building. The load bearing *vigas* run north to south in this part of the building as they also do in the east wing. The load bearing *vigas* in the west wing run east to west.

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Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

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The principal access to the east wing of the building from the foyer is through a large arched opening that extends the width of the east wall of the foyer. The east wing contains four reading rooms and a hallway (room 5) adjacent to a small lavatory and storage closet. The first reading room (room 1), which is located on the north end of the wing is a rectangular space approximately twice the size of the other reading rooms in the wing. A pair of windows is located in the north wall of this room and a single window is centrally positioned in its east wall. Access to the hallway (room 5) and to the second reading room (room 2) is provided through openings in the south wall of the main reading room. The second reading room, which is nearly square in plan, has a window centrally positioned in its east wall. An opening in the southwest corner of the room leads to the third reading room (room 3). This room, also nearly square in plan, has a window in its east wall flanked by a door that opens to the exterior. This door is similar in style and is contemporary with the replacement doors at the entrance to the building. An opening in the opposite wall leads to the the fourth reading room (room 4). A centrally positioned opening in its north wall leads to the hallway, and a wider opening in the west wall of this room, also centrally positioned, leads to the former courtyard. Contents of the four reading rooms in the east wing include free-standing bookcases and a variety of utilitarian chairs and tables that have been acquired over the years since the library's construction.

Principal access to the west wing is through an arch in the west wall of the foyer. This arched opening is identical in size to that found on the opposite side of the foyer. The west wing consists of a large rectangular reading room, now housing the Children's Reading Room (room 6), a large square storage room (room 7), a small storage room (room 8) and a lavatory that is only accessible from the former courtyard. The Children's Reading Room in this wing contains three casement windows in its west wall that are elevated so that bookcases running the length of the west wall can fit beneath them. A large square window is centrally positioned in the north wall of the room. A door toward the southeast corner of the room leads to the librarian's office (room 9). Another door in the southeast corner of the south wall formerly led to the lavatory, however, it has been fixed in place. A door in the opposite corner of the south wall leads to the storage room. Windows in the west and south walls in the storage room have been fixed in place and covered with plywood. A door in the east wall opens to a storage closet.

The Library has one undated New Deal oil paintings in its possession. "Landscape from Talpa" by Joseph Fleck (1893-1977) was probably a Public Works Administration (PWA) commission and was donated to the Library at the time of its construction.¹ The Fleck painting, which measures 32" by 35" is a contributing object within this nomination (fig. 7-4). Another oil painting in the library, "Flat Mesa Landscape," is unsigned and undated.

Alterations to the building since the period of significance have involved the enclosure of the courtyard (1960s), insertion of a book drop adjacent to the main entrance (1967), the insertion of stained-glass panels into frames of the casement windows in the foyer clerestory and west wing reading room (1988), replacement of the original

¹ Joseph Fleck (1892-1977) was born in Austria and immigrated to the United States following WWI. He settled in Taos, N.M. in 1934. Another PWA commissioned work by Fleck is held by the National Park Service Southwest Regional Office in Santa Fe.

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Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

vertical panel entrance doors (1988); and installation of HVAC which involved the lowering of the ceiling in several areas within the building. The essential floor plan of the 1936 building, however, remains largely intact as do the majority of its character defining features. In total, the building substantially retains its integrity of location, design, workmanship, feeling, and association.

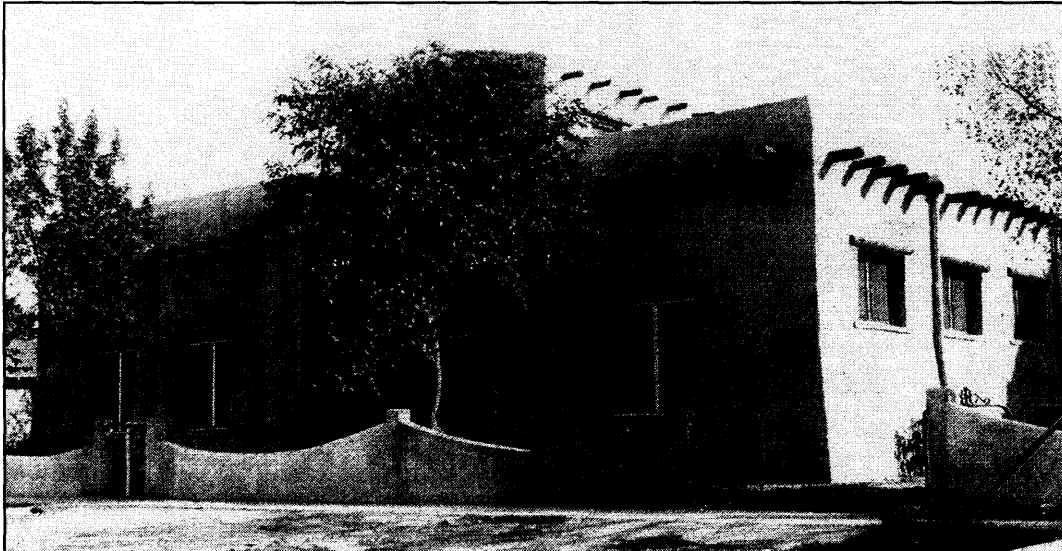
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Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

Figure 7-1 View from northwest, c. 1938.



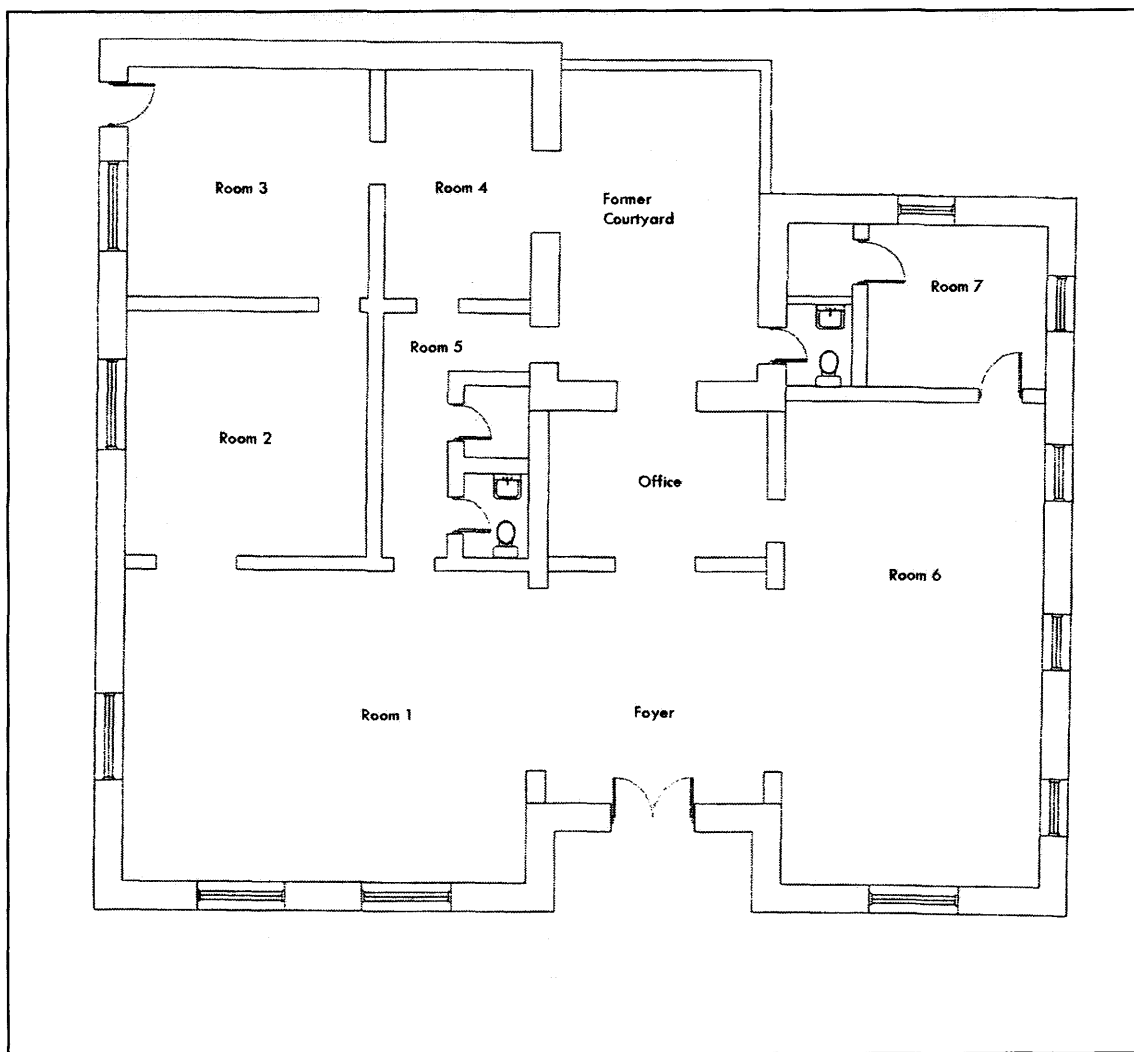
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Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

Figure 7-2 Plan (not to scale).



North

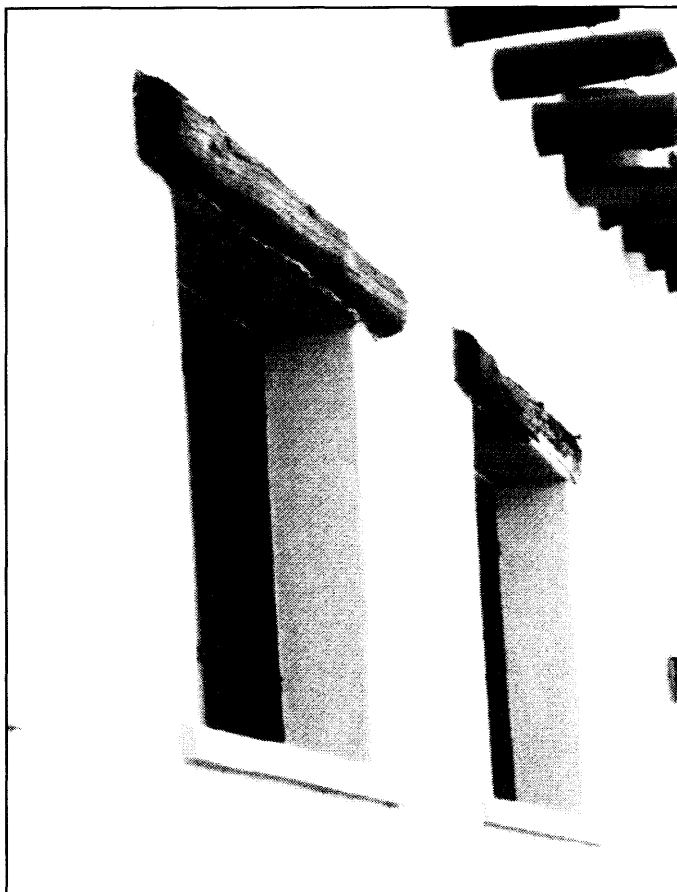
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Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

Figure 7-3 Detail, wood lintels



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Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

Figure 7-4 "Landscape from Talpa" by Joseph Amadeus Fleck, undated. Photo courtesy of New Mexico State Records and Archives.



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Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

Statement of Significance

Summary

The Lordsburg-Hidalgo Library was one of eleven library projects carried out in New Mexico during the New Deal by the Works Progress Administration and is one three WPA libraries in the state that were built of adobe². As described in the related multiple property listing, Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico, construction of the library was intended to bolster a local economy weakened by the Depression. The Spanish-Pueblo-Revival style building demonstrates how the New Deal's public works projects, in partnership with local government, and in this case, the Women's' Club movement, sought to improve rural communities. It is eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its association with Lordsburg and Hidalgo County's social history and for the development of education in the extreme southwest corner of the state before and during the Great Depression. The building is also eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion C as an excellent example of a small New Deal library built with local materials.

During the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt established the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as one of a group of federal agencies tasked with re-invigorating the American economy. Initially viewed by many as a "make-work" program, the men and women of the WPA rapidly expanded the infrastructure (water and sewer systems, roads, sidewalks, buildings, etc.) for many municipalities, national and state parks and monuments, Indian reservations, and other public entities during the Depression.

An important aspects of the WPA was a cost-sharing program that enabled municipalities to undertake large building projects that, in the depths of the Depression, would have been otherwise prohibitive. Funds made available under this program eventually were used to construct numerous public buildings, including libraries.

The Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library is one of only two county-supported libraries in New Mexico. The current library traces its origins to a community effort to bring books to the region's citizens. In 1919, the Lordsburg Woman's Club decided that Lordsburg needed a library. In order to begin a collection, members of the club went from house to house asking for donations of books. In total they collected about 100 books for the town's library.

In 1920, and continuing to 1922, a small library was situated in a vacant concession booth in the lobby of the Star Theater (later the Palace Theater and now part of the Western Auto store). The library was open only on

² The Lordsburg WPA Project Number is 12-2136-37. Funding was appropriated on April 3, 1936 in the amount of \$5,978.88. The Office Project Number is 65-85-1519. An additional appropriation of \$3,194 was made on Sept. 28, 1936 (WPA Number 10217, Office Project Number 165-85-2076). The other WPA adobe libraries are located in Aztec and Gallup.

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Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

Saturday afternoons, primarily to cater to the town's children. The members of the library board served as volunteer librarians. Any member who neglected duty as librarian was fined \$1, underscoring the importance ascribed to the library by the town's residents.

In 1922, the library was moved to a small house on Second Street, south of the Star Theater. Shortly thereafter, its holdings having increased to 1,000 books, the library moved again to the Egon News Stand. Also in 1922, the Woman's Club requested funding from the city's budget to support the library's activities. When the funds were not immediately forthcoming, a minstrel show was organized in 1923 that raised \$185 for the purchase of additional library books.

In 1924, annual funding in the amount of \$300 was made available to the library by the Town of Lordsburg. A library committee was appointed by town officials and, once again, the library was moved again to a house on East Second Street where it remained for three years.

In 1927, the library moved into the basement of the then-new Hidalgo County Courthouse. In the eight years it was situated in the courthouse basement, it occupied a 12 x 17 foot space and, as holdings increased, an adjoining 9 x 15 foot room was made available. In 1928, with additional funding from Hidalgo County, sufficient funds were available to hire, for the first time, a full-time librarian at a salary of \$25 per month. The first librarian, Mrs. Mathilde Johnson, served from 1928 through 1962.³ In 1932, with the library now supported by local taxes, the citizens of Lordsburg and Hidalgo County voted that it would serve the city and county with absolutely free services, thereby ending a 13-year practice of charging membership fees.

In 1935, E.A. Rose, district engineer of the WPA envisioned an official library building for Lordsburg. The library officers visited the new library in Deming, then under construction, to obtain ideas for a possible library facility. Working with Lee Roland, State Director of the WPA and W.A. Shillito, WPA Engineer, Lordsburg contributed funds from the town's coffers and raised additional funding from the Hidalgo County budget and the library's sinking fund. The State of New Mexico donated lots adjacent to the county courthouse for the building. Robert Prugle was named project engineer and T.B. Williams was put in charge of building the project.

There are no surviving original blueprints or plans for the Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library. Indeed, the inspiration for the library seems to have been the Deming Library, a Spanish-Pueblo-Revival style building that was under construction in 1935 as a project of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (*Lordsburg Liberal*, December 11, 1936). Contemporary newspaper accounts suggest that the Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library was built without formal plans:

H.B. Prugle, local engineer in charge of construction and T. B. Williams construction superintendent, who had very few plans or specifications to go by, and yet had directed

³ "The Lordsburg-Hidalgo Public Library," Lordsburg-Hidalgo Library papers, n.d.

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Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

the building as such a perfect structure, carrying out the Spanish type of architecture
(*Lordsburg Liberal*, August 20, 1937).

The cornerstone was laid on Monday, December 7, 1936. The building was completed and the library's holdings of 12,101 books were moved into the new structure in July of 1937.

The library struggled through the lingering years of the Depression and the inevitable financial constraints associated with World War II. In 1947, with the availability of State Library matching funds, an increase in appropriations was requested by the town and county. This combined funding gradually allowed the annual operating budget for the library to approach \$1,400. The Lordsburg-Hidalgo County library has—with community support, external grants and donations from private individuals—continued to meet its mission of serving the citizens of New Mexico's Boot Heel region. With holdings exceeding 20,000 volumes, the library remains the focal point for reading and education of citizens throughout the region.

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Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

Bibliography

Publications

Harris, Linda G. *One Book At A Time: The History of the Library in New Mexico*. Albuquerque: New Mexico Library Foundation, 1998.

Maturi, Mary Buckingham and Richard J. Maturi. *Cultural Gems: An Eclectic Look at Unique United States Libraries*. N.p.: Twenty First Century Publications, 1996.

Papers

Siepel, Marlene. *History of the Lordsburg-Hidalgo Library*. September 20, 2001, Lordsburg.

Newspapers

"Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library is A Historical Site." *Lordsburg Liberal*. April 19, 1991.

"Present Library Built in 1937." *Lordsburg Liberal*. February 10, 1958.

"Dedication of Library Most Brilliant Event." *Lordsburg Liberal*. August 20, 1937.

"Corner Stone New City-County Library is Laid." *Lordsburg Liberal*. December 11, 1936.

"Library Corner Stone Laying Postponed." *Lordsburg Liberal*. November 27, 1936.

"Corner Stone Ceremony Lordsburg-Hidalgo Library." *Lordsburg Liberal*, November 20, 1936.

"The W.P.A. Program To Continue Into 1937." *Lordsburg Liberal*, April 26, 1936.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 17

Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

Verbal Boundary Description

The Lordsburg Library is within the limits of the Town of Lordsburg and is situated at 208 E. Third. The building occupies lots 2, 3 and 4 of Block 21 in the Townsite Addition, Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico.

Boundary Justification

The boundary described represents the original site allocated by Hidalgo County to Lordsburg for the purpose of erecting the library in 1936 and includes the entire nominated resource.

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Section PHOTO Page 18

Lordsburg-Hidalgo Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

Photography Log

The following information pertains to all photographs unless otherwise noted:

Lordsburg-Hidalgo County Library
Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico
Photographer: James Hare
January 15, 2003
Negatives located at Historic Preservation Division, Santa Fe

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Photo 1 of 13 | Main (north) elevation. Camera facing south. |
| Photo 2 of 13 | View of north elevation of main reading room (room 1). Camera facing southwest. |
| Photo 3 of 13 | Detail, clerestory windows in foyer. Camera facing south. |
| Photo 4 of 13 | View of north elevation of children's reading room (room 6). Camera facing southwest. |
| Photo 5 of 13 | Detail, porch roof structure over main entrance. Camera facing south. |
| Photo 6 of 13 | View of west elevation. Camera facing southeast |
| Photo 7 of 13 | Detail, exterior window in south corner of west elevation. Camera facing east. |
| Photo 8 of 13 | Interior view of foyer and circulation desk from children's reading room. Camera facing east. |
| Photo 9 of 13 | Interior detail, circulation desk. Camera facing north. |
| Photo 10 of 13 | Interior view of children's reading room. Camera facing south. |
| Photo 11 of 13 | Interior detail, Windows in room 2. Camera facing northeast. |
| Photo 12 of 13 | Interior detail, interior 5- panel door between children's reading room and room 7. Camera facing south. |
| Photo 13 of 13 | Interior detail, interior lighting fixture in lavatory. |