

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 31 1987
date entered SEP 10 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Mogollon

and/or common Mogollon Historic District

2. Location

street & number Either side of NM 78 (Bursum Road) from where it enters Mogollon, 3/4 mile east — not for publication

city, town Mogollon n/a vicinity of

state New Mexico code 35 county Catron code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	n/a being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners, per continuation sheets

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Catron County Courthouse

street & number n/a

city, town Reserve state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NM Historic Bldg. Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records NM Historic Preservation Division

city, town Santa Fe state New Mexico

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Mogollon is located at 6575 to 6650 feet elevation in Silver Creek Canyon on the western edge of the Mogollon Mountains of Southwestern New Mexico. Buildings stand one deep on either side of the single road which winds up the canyon crossing and recrossing Silver Creek. The commercial buildings are clustered close together, some connected, at the lower, western end of the District. Six of these buildings are built of adobe or stone set on stone rubble foundations. The other three commercial structures are wood frame with metal siding. All but one of the commercial buildings have centered doors flanked by large display windows. The one church is wood frame with an exterior of flush horizontal boards. The houses are spaced five to twenty feet apart in the middle portion of town and 100 to 200 feet in the upper, western end. Apart from one log cabin, all residences are of wood frame construction with corrugated metal roofs. Most have board and batten siding, a few have corrugated or pressed metal siding. Most are single family houses of one to three rooms, with side-facing gable roofs and shed roofed front porches. The four duplexes, one tri-plex and one rooming house use similar materials and forms. Of the forty-five buildings erected in the District during the historic period, 1889-1942, only five have received significant alterations. Another five structures have been built since the historical period. Of the contributing buildings, twenty-eight were built before 1915; the construction of another twelve can be dated no more specifically than between 1915 and 1942.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry, mining	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1889-1942 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mogollon Historic District meets National Register Criterion A as one of the most important mining towns in New Mexico from the town's founding in 1889 to the final closing of the nearby Fannie Hill mill in 1942. The Mogollon/Cooney mining region, of which Mogollon was the center, was the largest producer of gold and silver in the state from 1887 to 1925 and probably also from 1934 to 1942. Mogollon is one of the four best preserved New Mexico mining towns. Mogollon's simple utilitarian structures are good examples of those erected in many isolated mining towns, and as such satisfy Criterion C. The poor transportation from Mogollon to outside communities and sources of supplies necessitated a heavy reliance on locally produced materials: lumber for residences, and stone or lumber for most commercial buildings. The lack of substantial mining profits and the undependability of mining employment, tied as it was to fluctuating precious metals markets, accounts for the modest size of the buildings and the general lack of ornament or embellishment. The presence of unmarried miners and miners without families accounts for the hotels, rooming houses and large numbers of one and two room houses. The location along a narrow mountain canyon caused the clustering of buildings close to either side of the single road. Although twenty-eight buildings were erected before 1915, another twelve can be dated no more specifically than 1915 to 1942. Some of these conceivably could have been built less than fifty years ago (i.e. 1938-42), nevertheless, they all have been classified as contributing buildings because they represent an inherent continuation of the historical development of Mogollon as a mining town, and they are greatly outnumbered by buildings clearly over fifty years old.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ca. 33

Quadrangle name Mogollon

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	2	7	0	4	6	4	0	3	6	9	7	4	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	2	7	0	5	1	5	0	3	6	9	7	4	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	2	7	0	5	8	1	0	3	6	9	7	0	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	2	7	0	5	7	4	0	3	6	9	6	8	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

1	2	7	0	4	6	4	0	3	6	9	7	2	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The district boundary has been drawn, as shown on the district map, to include only the historic buildings. (See continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Chris Wilson, Consulting Architectural Historian for

organization NM Hist. Preservation Division date 6/11/87

street & number 228 E. Palace Avenue telephone (505) 266-0931

city or town Santa Fe, state New Mexico

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7-24-87

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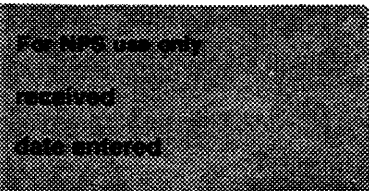
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William B. Bushong date 9/10/87
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Bruce J. Noble, Jr. date 9/10/87
Chief of Registration

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Hazel J. Adkisson
Mogollon, NM 88039

Mrs. Robert J. Bezemek
Hamline House No. 202
2800 Hamline Avenue N.
St. Paul, MN 55113

F. W. and Betty Lou Boyle
1726 Foster Road
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Catholic Church
Mogollon, NM 88039

Harold and Maxine Keith
Box 124
Glenwood, NM 88039

Jim Milobar
P.O. Box 2012
Silver City, NM 88061

Daniel Morgan
Box 144
Gila, NM 88028

Raymond Rada & John L. Roberts
216 W. Franklin Street
Tucson, AZ 85701

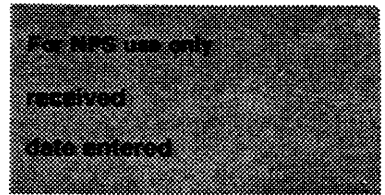
Vivian Wray
340 Lansing #53
Blackfoot, ID 83221

Mr. & Mrs. Calvin J. Salars
Box 808
Silver City, NM 88061

Jim Shelton
Route 10, Box 310
Glenwood, NM 88039

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4300 Wallington
El Paso, TX 79902

Manuel Araujo
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Mr. & Mrs. N. H. Black
4527 Durango Ct. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Vernon Grimes
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Silver City, NM 88061

W. S. & A. R. Eavenson
Box 314
Tombstone, AZ 85638

Robert H. & Ina Ramsay
930 Graybill Drive
Tucson, AZ 85719

Hazel & Robert Mallinkrodt
Star Route
Mogollon, NM 88039

Erika Jean Chamberlin
Route 10
Glenwood, NM 88039

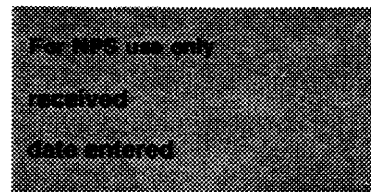
G. V. Allred, Jr.
Glenwood, NM 88039

T. F. Stroot
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Conley, GA 30027

Mrs. Eugene Prewitt
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Albuquerque, NM 87105

Mary G. Wiley
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University Park, NM 88003

Eugenia Harris
P.O. Box 663
Placitas, NM 87043

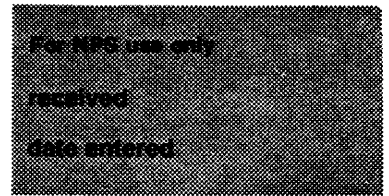
Brett W. Crabtree
44-1/2 N. Main Street
Fond Du Lac, WI 54935

Vivian Moore & Arthur Wooten
Route 3, Box 67 A
Harrison, AZ 72601

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Dolores Brock
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Ann G., Laurie Ann & Kelli Beth Harris
3320 Flo-Lor Drive, #12
Youngstown, OH 44511

Wilma Jean McKee
Box 5
Mule Creek, NM 88051

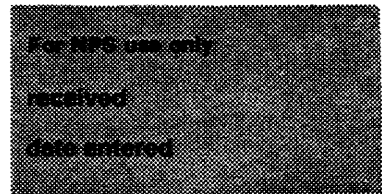
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4526 N. 39th Street
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Joseph R. & Dorothy Alsip
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Charles W. & Mary O. England
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Oklahoma City, OK 73119

Mark Ostler
1200 Princeton Drive SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

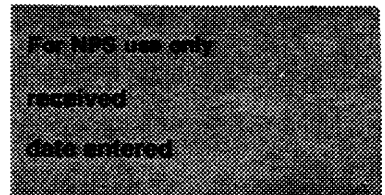
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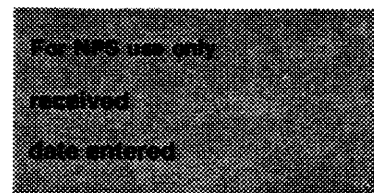
Page 6

B. & P. Kirtley
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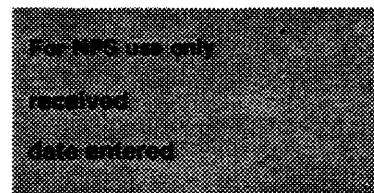
Topography. Mogollon is located in Silver Creek Canyon on the western edge of the Mogollon Mountains of Southwestern New Mexico (photos 1, 2). Ten miles to the east, the fir and pine covered Mogollons rise to 10,000 foot peaks. In its three-quarters of a mile length, the village of Mogollon rises from 6575 feet elevation at the west to 6650 at the east. Silver Creek and Mogollon are at the heart of the Mogollon/Cooney mining region. The region is approximately three-and-one-half miles wide, east to west, and ten miles long, bounded by Whitewater Creek, the next drainage on the south and by Mineral Creek, the next drainage to the north (and the site of Cooney, the first settlement in the area).

Streetscape. Buildings stand one deep on either side of Silver Creek and the single street which winds up the canyon crossing and recrossing the stream (photos 2-6). The canyon walls on either side rise 400 feet in the first 600 feet behind the buildings. At many points, stone retaining walls protect buildings from the stream (photos 4,7,14,18). Additional retaining walls have been used to help carve building sites from the steep slopes (photos 10,13). At the lower, western end of town, commercial buildings stand side-by-side at the street's edge (photos 5-9). In the mid-portion of Mogollon, a quarter of a mile to the east, houses are free-standing, but close together and within five or ten feet of the road (photos 11,15), or just on the opposite side of the stream (photos 4,14,16). In the eastern portions of town, east of Graveyard Gulch, houses are generally separated by 100 to 200 feet from their neighbors (photos 12,13,17). A handful of small sheds and outhouses stand to the side and rear of houses (photo 2). Out buildings are not recorded on the district map and, in accordance with National Register counting procedures (Bulletin 14), are not included in the building counts.

Residences. Apart from one log cabin, all residences are of wood frame construction with corrugated metal roofs. These one-story houses rest directly on the ground (photo 12,14), on wood pilings (photos 13,17) or on stone rubble footings (photo 16). The vast majority have board and batten exterior walls, most unpainted. A few frame houses are sheathed in metal, sometimes pressed in a brick pattern. The double hung windows (1/1, 2/2 and 4/4) and single doors of the houses have simple wood frames. Porches have simple, sometimes chamfered posts, with no ornamentation.

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Of the 28 unaltered residences, built during the historic period, nearly half--13--are one or two room houses (photo 12-14), some with rear additions. Of the larger houses (photo 17), 4 have rooms arranged in a single file, 5 in an L-shape. There are 4 duplexes, 1 tri-plex and 1 rooming house (photos 15,16). Most houses have a single gable roof, one room wide, with gables to the side. Half of the houses--14--have shed roofed porches on their long, non-gable side. Another 6 porches start along the front and wrap around a gable end.

Non-residential buildings. Three commercial buildings are wood frame construction, sheathed in corrugated metal (photos 7,9.). Two of these have false fronts with pressed metal imitating brick and rusticated stonework. The remaining six commercial structures are built of adobe (photos 5,8) or stone walls (photo 6) set on stone rubble foundations. Adobe buildings are stuccoed; the stone ones are exposed rubble construction on the sides and rear, with rusticated ashlar facades. Two of the stone buildings have cut-stone, segmental lintels and simple, molding cornices. On the ground floor, all of the commercial structures have centered doors flanked by large display windows. The three, two-story commercial structures devoted their upper level to hotel and merchant residence space. The one church is wood frame with an exterior of flush, horizontal boards. Its double doors have ogee panels.

Appearance and uses. Most of Mogollon's earliest buildings were destroyed in a fire in 1894. The town rebuilt and at its peak, about 1915, had approximately 100 buildings--twice as many as it has now. Six to eight additional commercial structures once stood at the street's edge just east of the remaining commercial buildings (where buildings # 4,9-11 now stand). These were lost through subsequent fires. Many houses have been lost to material scavengers and the elements. They were among the least substantial structures in the community, and most of them clung precariously to the hill above (north of) the main street in the lower part of town (photos 1,2 left). The vast majority of houses which lined the main street during the historic period are still standing.

All of the 28 unaltered, historic residences continue to be used as residences, although most are only occupied in the summer. About half of the 9 commercial structures are in use

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as cafes, a museum and gift shops during any given summer. The remaining space in commercial structures is used for storage or residence.

Integrity and Preservation. Of the 45 buildings erected during the historic period in the Mogollon District, 38 have had no substantial alterations. Two prominent commercial buildings have had unfortunate, cosmetic alterations which have not destroyed their basic integrity: one has recently been given wooden window frames with pedimented lintels (photo 8) the other, a tile cornice (photo 5). Five historic buildings have had substantial remodelings including the addition of new windows and rooms, and the reconfiguration of the roof, or the addition of a new style porch and stone wainscot (photo 19, left). Three houses have been built in recent years, and, although they are considered non-contributing for National Register purposes, their board and batten, and wood shingle walls complement the historic buildings. Two buildings constructed during the production of the 1973 movie "My Name is Nobody" give the misleading impression they are historic (photo 18).

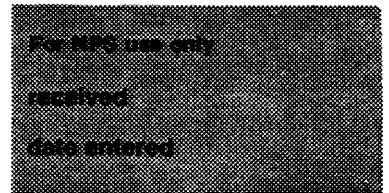
Most houses are well maintained as second residences used during the summer. There is no formal historic preservation program in the town or county, although there is a general pride in the history of the community and a desire to preserve its architecture. The preservation of historic buildings is a stated goal of the Mogollon (Volunteer) Fire Department--an important form of preservation given the major fires which have ravaged the community's largely wood frame buildings over the years.

All buildings erected by 1942 and not significantly remodeled have been designated as historically contributing. The 1942 date is practical: the only good source to date buildings is a 1915 USGS map. Since the population dropped approximately 90% after the closing of the Fannie Hill Mill in 1942, it is assumed that no new buildings were constructed until the three which appeared after 1965. Of the historically contributing structures, 28 appear on the 1915 map. The remaining 12 are listed as ca. 1915-42, although, it is unlikely that many of these are actually less than fifty years old.

Contributing structures By National Register counting procedures (Bulletin 14), there are 40 contributing buildings

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and 10 non-contributing buildings in the District. The first number listed for each buildings is the field survey number which is keyed to the district map. Buildings are one story with board-and-batten siding and corrugated metal roofs unless otherwise specifies:

3. J.P. Holland General Store; photo 5, left; late 1890s; 2 story; shed roof; stone rubble foundation; stuccoed adobe walls; 2 single doors, 1 double door and 4-pane display windows on first floor; 4/4 double hung windows (dhw) on second; tile cornice added ca. 1970s.

5. Old Post Office/Coates-Moore store; photo 6, right; ca. 1900; 2 story; shed roof; stone rubble foundations, side and rear walls; rusticated stone ashlar facade: new windows and single door in facade.

6. Holland's Furniture and Notions Store; photo 6, second from right; ca. 1900; shed roof; rusticated ashlar with smooth lintels and molding cornice; double doors with transom; 4-pane display windows.

7. Ernestine Mining Company Store/museum; photo 6, third from right; late 1890s; shed roof; ashlar walls with recessed sign panel and cut segmental arches; double doors with transom; 6/6/6 thw.

8. Store/museum snack bar; ill.6 left; late 1890s; shed roof; rubble stone walls; double wooden doors.

12. Aikman (Rooming?) House; pre-1904; L-shaped; 2/2, 4/4/dhw; 4 single doors; new porch 1984-87.

13. Grimes House; pre-1915; wood shingle siding; 2/2 dhw; 1 new aluminum sliding window.

14. Duplex; photo 15, right; pre-1915; 2/2 dhw; two single doors.

15. Duplex; photo 15, left; pre-1915; pressed metal siding; 2/2, 4/4 dhw; two single doors.

16. Mogollon Theater; photo 7 left; (pre-?)1915; shed roof; corrugated metal siding; pressed metal, false front; porch with projection/lighting booth above.

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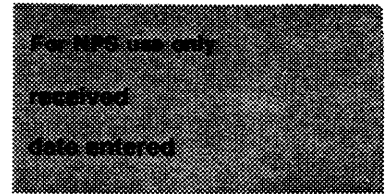
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17. Store; photo 7, right; pre-1915; pressed metal, false front; 4-pane display windows; double door with transom.
18. Coates Store; photo 8; pre-1915; 1 and 2 story sections; shed roofs; stuccoed adobe (?) walls; 2/2, 4/4 dhw; single door, double door with transom; porch balustrade and window and door frames added ca. 1980.
19. Tri-plex; photo 16; pre-1915; pressed metal siding; 2/2, 4/4 dhw; 3 single doors; heavier, chamfered porch posts set off 3 units.
21. House; pre-1915; 2/2, 4/4 dhw; 2 single doors; jig-saw frieze on porches (new?).
22. New Post Office; 1942; wood shingle siding; 2/2 dhw, wood casement windows.
23. Coates Restaurant; photo 9; pre-1915; corrugated metal siding; 2/2, 6/6 dhw, wooden sliding windows; double doors with transom.
24. Jack Brixner House, pre-1915; stuccoed walls; 4/4. 6/6 dhw; single door.
29. House; pre-1915; single door; windows covered; porch collapsed.
30. R.J. Davis House; pre-1915; 2/2 dhw, wooden sliding windows; single door.
31. Triolo Cabin; pre-1915, possibly pre-1894; two cribs of horizontal logs with double saddle notching; 4/4 dhw.
32. St. Francis Catholic Church; photo 10; pre-1915; flush, horizontal board siding; 4/4 dhw; double doors with ogee panels; retaining wall in front.
33. House; possibly pre-1915; 2/2, 1/1 dhw; single door.
34. House; ca. 1915-42; wooden sliding windows, single door with transom.
35. Rios Duplex; ca. 1915-42; 2/2 dhw; 2 single doors.

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36. McKee House; ca. 1915-42; 2/2 dhw; single door.
38. House; ca. 1915-42; windows covered; single door.
39. House/barn (?); pre-1915; windows covered; double doors.
40. Hospital/house; pre-1915; 4/4 dhw; single door; retaining walls to form building site.
41. House; photo 13; ca. 1915-42 pressed metal siding; 2/2 dhw; one new 2 horizontal/2 horizontal dh aluminum window; retaining walls.
43. Rooming (?) House; photo 17; ca. 1915-42; 4/4 dhw; 4 single doors.
45. House; possibly pre-1915; corrugated metal siding; windows not visible. Extensive stone retaining walls directly opposite.
47. House; photo 12; possibly pre-1915; 1/1 dhw; single door.
48. Shed; possibly pre-1915; shed roof; no windows; single door.
49. Tuck Bernard House; ca. 1915-42; wooden sliding windows; cut-out balustrade.
50. Runyan House; ca. 1915-42; 2/2 dhw; single door; retaining walls helps create building site.
51. House; possibly pre-1915; 4/4 dhw; 2 single doors.
100. House; ca. 1915-42; 4/4 dhw; single door; stone rubble leveled building site; only remaining house on hill north of lower portion of Mogollon.
102. House; ca. 1915-42; corrugated metal siding; 4/4 dhw.
103. House; ca. 1915-42; windows broken out; stone retaining wall helps create building site.
104. Duplex; ca. 1915-42; 4/4 dhw; 2 single doors.

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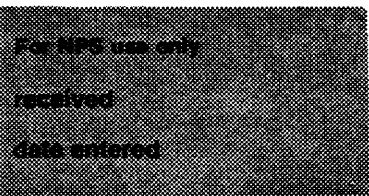
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Non-contributing structures:

4. House/store; ca. 1915-42; 2 story; corrugated siding; 4/4 dhw; 4-pane display windows; stone wainscot and porch railing new.
9. House; ca. 1965; wood shingle siding; aluminum sliding windows.
10. House/stage stop; if actually an early stage stop, totally obscured by new construction ca. 1970; aluminum sliding windows.
11. House; ca. 1965; wood shingle siding; aluminum sliding windows.
26. Movie set house; photo 18; 1972.
27. Movie set general store; 1972.
37. House; corrugated metal siding; ca. 1975.
42. House; pre-1897 barn, drastically remodeled into house ca. 1970.
44. House; ca. 1975.
46. House; construction date uncertain; aluminum sliding windows.

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Historical development. Gold and silver were first discovered in the region in 1870 by James Cooney, a United States Cavalry scout stationed at Ft. Bayard eighty miles to the south. He established a mining camp called Cooney on Mineral Creek (the drainage north of Mogollon) in 1876 after he was mustered out of the army. Attacks by Apache Indians prevented large scale development of the area for another decade and, in fact, cost Cooney and others their lives.

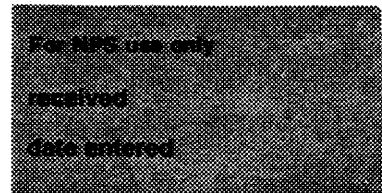
In 1887, Frank Vingo discovered the Little Fannie mine above Silver Creek. In 1889, John Eberle built the first house in Mogollon. Additional mines were quickly discovered nearby and the community grew rapidly. In addition to providing housing for much of the region's population, Mogollon became the center for transportation and communication with the outside world; its post office, dry goods stores, churches, school, hotels, movie theater, bawdy houses and saloons catered to the needs of the mines, the miners and their families.

Mills for processing ore were erected in the late 1880s and early 1890s at several mines within a mile of Mogollon--the Little Fannie, Last Chance, Maud S and Deep Down. (Apart from the company town built at Fannie Hill in 1908, most miners lived in Mogollon and walked to their work.) The mine mills all employed the mercury pan amalgamation process. As Otis Young notes in his definitive study **Western Mining**, frontier mining, taken as a whole in the American West up to 1890, barely broke even. Most of the early Mogollon mine and mill operations, in fact, proved unprofitable. The pan amalgamation process which yielded only about 50% of the assay value of ore, simply was not efficient enough to compensate for the high cost of operating at this remote, mountain location, eighty miles from the nearest railhead at Silver City to the south.

During the 1890s, a new cyanide process revolutionized the milling of gold and silver throughout the West. Sometime between 1899 and 1903, this cyanide process, which yields approximately 90% of the assay value, was introduced at the Last Chance mine just southwest of Mogollon. The Last Chance quickly became the most profitable gold and silver mine in the state. In 1909, the Last Chance was superseded as the states largest producer by a new cyanide processing mill on Fannie Hill north of town. Its production peaked by 1915, quickly tailed off and it was closed about 1925 as the richer veins played out and prices for silver fell. In 1934, the

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Fannie Hill mill was reopened when gold prices rose, but was closed for good in 1942. (As precious metal prices have allowed in recent years, a mill has been operated at the Pacific Mine west of Mogollon.)

There is general agreement in period accounts of mining in New Mexico and in recent historical research that the Mogollon/Cooney region was the leading producer of gold and silver in the state from 1890 to 1920. J.R. Finlay in the official **State Report of Appraisal of Mining Properties of New Mexico** estimated the district's total output to 1921 had been \$17,000,000, but noted that "profits have been scanty; were these mines at Silver City the cost of operating would have been \$1,500,000 less and the properties proportionally more valuable."

United States census figures for Cooney and Mogollon and for the nearby farming area of Alma reflect the fortunes of local mining activity.

	Socorro Co.	Cooney	Mogollon	Alma
1880	7,875			
1890	9,595	351		368
1900	12,195		599	128
1910	14,761	189	799	364
1920	14,061		482	324
1930	9,611			
	Reserve Co. (formed out of Socorro Co.)			
	3,282		299	128
1940	4,881		554	129
1950	3,533		45	109

The population of Mogollon undoubtedly rose above 799 during the peak years of 1915-16, although it is unlikely that it ever reached the 2,000 inhabitants which local boosters regularly claimed. Accounts since 1960 have placed the year round population at twenty, with a seasonal increase from the

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development of the community as a summer residence and tourist stop.

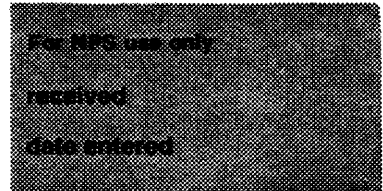
Historic cohesiveness. Mogollon retains a strong sense of its historic appearance. Unaltered historic buildings account for 80% of the structures in the proposed District. The few non-contributing structures detract little from the district's appearance because most continue to use historic materials--board and batten, wood shingles and corrugated metal roofing. The two significant gaps in the historic fabric are that portion of the original commercial area which was lost to fire (roughly where structures # 4,9-11 now stand) and the two clusters of bawdy houses (up Graveyard Gulch and below Mogollon on Silver Creek) which have entirely disappeared.

The buildings and the layout of the settlement directly reflect the rugged topography and boom-and-bust economy which shaped Mogollon and many other mining camps. The clustering of buildings close together and near the road stemmed directly from the selection of this narrow mountain canyon as the best available town site for Mogollon. The lack of substantial mining profits, even though the area was a strong producer for 30 years, accounts in part for the relatively modest, unornamented character of the utilitarian commercial buildings and vernacular houses. The undependability of mining employment, tied as it was to fluctuating world gold and silver markets, also mediated against miners making major investments in their houses. The presence of many unmarried miners and miners without their families helps account for the hotels, rooming houses and large numbers of one and two room houses. And finally, the difficult transportation to outside supplies, necessitated a reliance on a few locally produced building materials: stone, lumber and, to a limited extent, adobe.

Comparable New Mexico mining towns. Most New Mexico mining towns have lost more of their historic integrity than Mogollon: towns such as Santa Rita, Tyrone, Golden, Dawson and Cooney have disappeared; others such as Elizabethtown, Kelly and Bland have faded to a handful of buildings; while still others such as Cerillos, Kingston and Pinos Altos retain a handful of significant historic structures surrounded by more recent construction. Mogollon stands as one of the four most significant, historic mining towns in the state. In Hillsboro, a gold mining town which

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prospered in the 1870s and 1880s (and for which a National Register Nominations is in preparation), well kept historic buildings out-number those in ruins. White Oaks, a Gold town from the same era (and a National Historic District), has lost most of its historic buildings but retains several substantial, highly-detailed structures, including a bank, two mansions and a large school house. Madrid, a Coal mining center active from the 1890s to the 1940s (and also a National Historic District), has many more and better detailed buildings than Mogollon, but also more alterations of historic structures and more recent buildings. Mogollon's historic interest is also enhanced by Fannie Hill one-half mile north. The separate Fannie Hill District includes one of the three best preserved company towns in the state (the others being Madrid and Koehler) and one of the two most intact mining mills (the other being the Hanover zinc mill).

Survey and boundary. Mogollon was placed on the State Register of Cultural Properties in 1969 at the suggestion of a member of the State Historic Sites Committee. In 1978, the town and the surrounding mining and mill sites were studied in more detail by the Texas Tech University, History of Engineering Program. A National Register nomination covering the area was also prepared by a research assistant with that program, Donald Abbe. That nomination was returned by the Register on May 16, 1979 because, while the significance of the mining history was discussed, the architectural significance of the nominated properties was not discussed and no inventory of buildings was included. In 1984, Drusilla Claridge with the Silver City Museum conducted a survey of area structures using the State's Historic Building Inventory form. She subsequently revised the Texas Tech nomination based on this inventory. In 1987, architectural historian Chris Wilson, working as a consultant to the State Historic Preservation Division, completed additional research and a field examination of the properties. In consultation with State Historic Preservation Staff, it was decided that the original nominated, mile-square area (which included five mines, two towns, a cemetery and a handful of scattered individual structures) was too large and under-documented to be nominated as a single district. It was decided to prepare two district nominations covering the town of Mogollon, and the mill and company town of Fanny Hill, which include over 95% of the structures in the original nomination.

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For the most part, the historic buildings of Mogollon are surrounded by rugged landscape and the boundary for the proposed District was drawn to include only the buildings. A handful of greatly-remodeled and recently-constructed buildings along the Graveyard Gulch Road, as it leaves Mogollon, have been excluded from the District.

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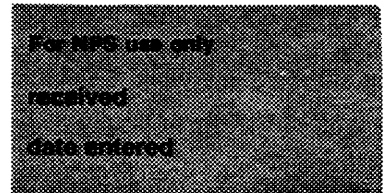
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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Mogollon is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map entitled Mogollon, New Mexico Historic District, scale 1 inch equals 133 feet.

Mogollon, N.M. Historic District

- Contributing
- Non-Contributing
- Boundary

