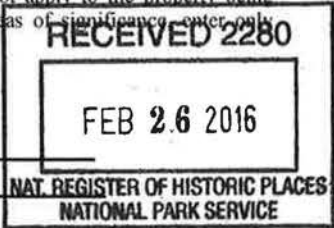


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

161

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Mesilla Park Historic District

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

### 2. Location

Street & number: Bounded by Bowman Street, Union and University avenues, and Park Drain.

City or town: Las Cruces State: New Mexico County: Doña Ana

Zip Code: 88005

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

### 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

 _____ Dr. Jeff Pappas, New Mexico States Historic Preservation Officer <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<u>2/22/16</u> <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	
_____ <b>Date</b>	
_____ <b>Title :</b>	_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

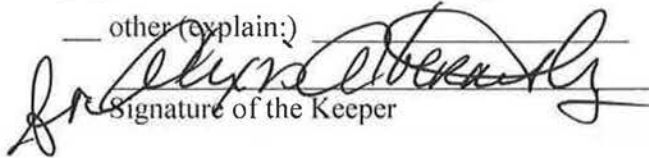
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this 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

4/12/16  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>131</u>	<u>48</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>133</u>	<u>48</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling,

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store, restaurant, general store, warehouse

GOVERNMENT: post office

EDUCATION: school

RELIGION: religious facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: irrigation facility

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling, institutional housing

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store, restaurant, office building

EDUCATION: school

RELIGION: religious facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: irrigation facility

INDUSTRIAL/Processing/Extraction: manufacturing facility, industrial storage

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival, Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

Other: Ranch House

Other: Spanish-Pueblo Revival style

Other: Territorial Revival style

Other: Contemporary style

Other: Folk Victorian

Other: Plain (no style)

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Wood, Stucco, Metal, Terra Cotta

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Mesilla Park Historic District is a small suburb located south of downtown Las Cruces, between the town of La Mesilla and New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, Doña Ana County in southern New Mexico. Mesilla Park includes a commercial strip, an industrial district, and a variety of houses built from 1887 to 1965. The gridiron plan of streets, which parallels the rail line, is laid out 45 degrees from perpendicular. The neighborhood's tree-lined streets are supported by a system of irrigation ditches and most blocks are bisected by narrow service alleys. Commercial buildings line the east side of Main Street, and consist of one- and two-story attached and freestanding buildings. The rail line and Spanish-Pueblo Revival-style depot (1925) are the only structures on the west side of Main Street. The industrial area along Harrelson Street, west of the tracks consists mostly of one-story, wood-frame and concrete-block storage and retail buildings. Houses in the neighborhood, which include mostly single-family houses and several multi-family houses, were built in the Folk Victorian, Spanish-Pueblo Revival, Territorial Revival, Craftsman-style bungalows, and Ranch Houses in revival and modern styles. Community landmark buildings include the St. James Episcopal Church (1911),

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the railroad depot (1925), and Mesilla Park Elementary School (1907-1963), which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2015.

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## Narrative Description

The Mesilla Park Historic District is a small suburb located south of downtown Las Cruces, between the town of La Mesilla and New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, Doña Ana County in southern New Mexico. Mesilla Park was planned as an urban town in a rural setting when it was founded in 1887 by the Rio Grande Land Company, a real estate subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway (AT&SF). The original Mesilla Park townsite plat is laid out along the east and west sides of the rail line. The townsite was amended in 1894 with the Bowman Addition that expanded the boundaries to the north and west. The major thoroughfare, Main Street, runs parallel to the tracks and is lined with commercial buildings along the east side of the street. The railroad depot and the warehouse district are located on the west side of Main Street. Houses are mostly organized on a gridiron plan of streets laid out forty-five degrees to perpendicular to match the rail line. Neighborhood blocks are bisected by service alleys, which were planned for fifteen of the blocks with smaller lots. Some of these alleys fell into disuse and were incorporated into private property so that they no longer exist. A dozen alleys remain in the east and west residential areas.

Prior to the establishment of Mesilla Park, the land was irrigated farmland. The townsite plat filed by the Rio Grande Land Company on August 25, 1887, is an irregular grid pattern of streets bounded by the meandering curvature of the old Rio Grande riverbed to the east and south, with Sixth Street on the north (Conway Avenue), and a diagonally drawn boundary line on the west (figure 1). Within the boundaries were forty-four blocks, or portions of blocks, divided into lots of varying sizes based on their use as commercial, industrial, residential, and agricultural property. Two-hundred lots were laid out ranging in size from 25 x 134 feet to several acres. Oak, Maple (Main), Locust (Harrelson), Linden, and Orange avenues paralleled the railroad tracks. Perpendicular to these were Union, Fourth (Bell), Fifth (Manso), and Sixth (Conway) streets.

In 1894, George D. Bowman filed the Bowman Addition to the Mesilla Park townsite, which expanded on the original townsite plat and added two new streets on the north, College and University avenues, and Bowman Avenue (Bowman Street) on the west (figure 2). In 1906, three years after George D. Bowman's death, the Bowman Addition was amended, by his son, Henry D. Bowman, for the purpose of designating a site for a public school (figure 3). The Mesilla Park Elementary School was built on this lot beginning in 1907.

Some of the original townsite and Bowman Addition streets were renamed with the annexations by Las Cruces in 1964 and Mesilla in 1989 and the building of Interstate 10 in the 1970s:

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ORIGINAL

CURRENT

4th Street

Bell Avenue

5th Street

Manso Avenue

6th Street

Conway Avenue

7th Street

College Avenue

Bowman Avenue

Bowman Street

E. College Avenue

St. James Street

Locust Avenue

Harrelson Street

Maple Avenue

Main Street

In 1968, Max Sanchez, a Las Cruces supermarket owner, filed the Sanchez Addition to Mesilla Park. Located on College Avenue, the addition is south of the Fabián Garcia Science Center. The subdivision includes four houses on the south side of College Avenue and eight on Sanchez Place, a cul-de-sac. The subdivision comprises Ranch Houses built between 1966 and 1989, which are not included in the historic district.

Irrigation ditches were in place in Mesilla Park by 1890, when George D. Bowman is believed to have built a bridge over a ditch on College Avenue in order to facilitate travel between Mesilla Park and the new college to the east. By 1915, a formal series of community ditches had been developed and managed by property owners. Irrigation water is distributed from the Elephant Butte Irrigation District via the College and Laguna laterals. Community ditches deliver irrigation water from the laterals to the property owners. The College Lateral serves two ditches: the College Community Ditch and the Fabián Garcia Science Center Ditch. The Laguna Lateral provides water to the Good Shepherd Community Ditch and the Station Master Community Ditch. These ditches are laid along the neighborhood's tree-lined streets (photos 20-21).

Residential sidewalks were uncommon in the neighborhood. In 1940, three sidewalks were installed by the National Youth Administration, two on Bowman Street and one on Main Street. The NYA was a New Deal program to provide high school and college students with vocational training. These sidewalks are stamped NYA. A public works project in 2010 installed residential sidewalks on the east side of the tracks.

The commercial strip on the east side of Main Street comprises one- and two-story attached and freestanding commercial buildings constructed between 1920 and 1962 (photos 1-5). Early buyers of the long narrow lots sometimes combined adjacent lots into single enterprises. Other lots retain their original configurations. The commercial strip included general stores, grocery stores, post office, Wells-Fargo Express, telegraph agent, barber shop, hotels, ice house, and a livery. The rise of the automobile resulted in the transformation of many businesses into auto repair shops, gas stations, cafés, drug stores, and motels. The strip currently includes a café, barber shop, an office building, gun shop, and taxidermist. Several buildings are vacant.

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There are twelve commercial buildings along the four-block commercial strip. Many of the original commercial buildings have been lost due to fire or demolition. The remaining buildings are mostly one-story attached and free-standing buildings built from 1920 to 1962, mostly in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival and Territorial Revival styles. The commercial building at 3111 Main Street is a vacant early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Spanish-Pueblo Revival-style service station (photo 5). The office building, built in the New Formalism style in 1962 at 3201 Main Street, is among the few buildings designed in a modern style (photo 4). These buildings were built of concrete block, stone, brick, or adobe, and covered with stucco.

The Mesilla Park warehouse district developed along Harrelson Street after the first train depot, located south of Union Avenue, was built in 1887. Harrelson Street, located on the west side of the rail line, included hay sheds; a cotton gin; vegetable and fruit shipping platforms; lumber; oil and coal yards; and the County Road Machinery Shed. Some purchasers of land bought entire blocks and turned them into agricultural fields, some of which remained until the warehouse district expansion beginning in the 1960s through the 1980s. Many of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century wood buildings were replaced with more substantial and efficient buildings. Ray Lankford, a graduate of New Mexico A&M, built or bought twelve warehouse buildings and expanded the warehouse district beginning in the 1960s.

The warehouse district includes more than a dozen buildings (photos 13-18). The industrial buildings, which were mostly built from the 1920s to 1981, are constructed of wood-frame and clad in sheet metal, and concrete block covered with stucco or paint. These include the sheet-metal oil distribution facility at 3301 Harrelson Street, which appears on the 1927 Sanborn Insurance Map (photo 14), and a long metal-clad shed at 3201 Harrelson Street that is currently used to off-load grain from rail cars (photo 15). The two-story adobe building at 3206 Harrelson Street, which was built in 1930, is another early warehouse building (photo 15, left).

The residential buildings in Mesilla Park include a variety of architectural styles, building types, and building materials. The east and west residential sections of the neighborhood are divided by the railroad tracks, commercial area, and the Warehouse District. The first houses constructed by the Rio Grande Land Company and the Bowmans were cottages built on speculation in 1887 on the east side, near the commercial area. Three early adobe houses on Oak Street have L-shaped plans with entrances in the re-entrant angles and were built between 1887 and 1890. Later east-side houses were constructed between 1907 and 2012, mostly of adobe covered with stucco. These were built in various styles, especially the Craftsman-style bungalow, Spanish-Pueblo Revival style and the Ranch House type (photos 8-10).

The William N. Hager House on Union Avenue, built in 1890, is among the earliest houses on the west side of the rail line (photo 47). It is a plain L-shaped house with a stone barn and cottage. The house includes a steeply pitched hip roof, entrance porch, and a two-over-two sash window. A similar house is located one block north at 301 Bell Avenue (photo 46). It is an L-shaped house with tight massing, a steeply pitched roof, and a brick apron, which was added after the house was completed. Both houses have little ornamentation. Two Queen Anne-style houses were built in 1892 by George D. Bowman and Francis E. Lester on Bowman Street, the

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west side of the neighborhood. These houses feature simplified massing and less elaborate ornamentation.

Bungalows emerged in Mesilla Park as a popular house type in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (photos 22 and 25). Bungalows are one-story, usually wood-framed houses with a low-pitched roof, broad eaves, and porches that provided shelter from the sun. These houses could be clad in brick or stucco. Many were built in the Craftsman style with multiple exterior building materials, brackets in the eaves, and battered porch posts. This style was well suited to southern New Mexico's hot summers, and its simplicity and informality of design were practical and economical. Bungalows were built throughout the neighborhood and especially on Conway Avenue, where J.O. Howker built adobe-clad bungalows during the 1920s and 1930s (photos 26 and 29).

The Spanish-Pueblo Revival-style was a popular residential style on the west-side of Mesilla Park. The style originated in northern New Mexico and combines elements Pueblo Indian architecture and Spanish missions. Because most buildings in New Mexico built before 1850 were built with adobe, it inspired the revival style for the reconstruction of the city of Santa Fe to celebrate New Mexico's statehood. So successful was the revival of the Spanish Pueblo style, it continues to be among the most popular styles in New Mexico.

The Spanish-Pueblo Revival-style was introduced in the Mesilla Valley by professional architects and builders, who constructed public buildings. Based on adobe houses, some Spanish-Pueblo Revival-style houses have a massive, free-form sculpted appearance, a result of the use of buttresses and contoured lines. Rough timbers were frequently used for porch posts, window and door trim, and vigas. Later variants using wood-frame construction resulted in a less massive appearance and sharper lines. Beginning in 1901, numerous houses were built in Mesilla Park in this style (photos 8, 28, 30, and 35-36). Many were built on Bowman Street in the 1930s and 1940s (photos 24 and 41-42). Commercial buildings were also built in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style (photo 5).

The Territorial Revival style is a revival of the Greek Revival or Territorial Style, which was popular in New Mexico from c.1846 to 1880. It incorporates most of the decorative elements of the Territorial style, including parapets with dentil brick copings, white stucco exteriors, pedimented trim over windows and doors, and square columns, which support flat-roofed portals. Absent are the gable roofs and folk territorial aberrations. During the late 1930s and the 1940s, Territorial Revival elements, especially brick-dentil copings, were incorporated into Art Deco designs. This style is found mainly in New Mexico from c.1930 to the present. In Mesilla Park, the Mesilla Valley Alternative Learning Center is among the best examples of the Territorial Revival style. The two earliest buildings feature flat roofs, dentil-brick cornice, and porches with square chamfered posts (photo 43).

In the 1930s and 1940s, four, small houses were built in a variety of house types, but all are faced in stone rubble (photo 42, left). Some have common features, such as metal-frame windows in unsupported corners. The house at 3305 Bowman Street features a roughly square



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plan, decorative roof tile on the entrance porch, and metal-frame windows. Neighboring stone houses on the west side of the street were built as a bungalow and as a Spanish-Pueblo Revival-style house.

From the late 1930s through the 1940s, the American Small House was a distinctive house type that emerged during a period of desperate economic conditions during the Great Depression and the shortages of the postwar era. This was a national effort to provide well-designed, well-built affordable small houses that are in no sense traditional. American Small Houses are compact, one-story, gable-roofed houses with usually four main rooms. The exteriors are plain with no architectural style and little ornament. Some appear vaguely as Cape Cod houses in form. A Mesilla Park example is located on Manso Avenue (photo 38).

Ranch Houses in the historic district were built from the 1940s into the 1960s (photos 37 and 39). The term “ranch house” is an all-encompassing term for mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century, one-story, single-family houses with distinctive long and low proportions. Plans include L- and U-shapes as well as plain rectangular forms. These were often built together in large suburban subdivisions. Ranch Houses often include carports and garages. Ranch Houses have zoned interior plans with private spaces for bedrooms and bathrooms at one end and public spaces for living and family rooms at the other end. Floor plans are open with public rooms flowing into one another. This house type could be designed in any number of styles, including Colonial Revival, Modern, Contemporary and California, also called Western style, or in no style. In Mesilla Park from the 1960s to the 1990s, Ranch Houses were built in a variety of forms from small, rectangular houses to long, houses with attached garages. These were designed in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style, Contemporary style, and plain, without an architectural style.

Many houses in Mesilla Park were constructed behind a principal house, without a street frontage. The three houses on Conway Avenue are excellent examples of small cottages built to the rear of a main house (photo 28). These were built with elements of the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style and the Craftsman style. The plan of Mesilla Park includes service alleys, which also include houses located in the center of blocks (photos 35-36).

Most of the houses in Mesilla Park are single-family dwellings, but the neighborhood includes numerous examples of multifamily houses, including a duplex on Conway Avenue (photo 27), eight duplexes on Linden Avenue (photo 31), and a long, block of four duplexes, each joined by a carport on College Avenue (photo 19).

Community landmark buildings include the railroad depot on west side of Main Street (photo 12). Built in 1925 in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival-style, the long, narrow depot includes large freight doors on the ends, a ticket window on the west side, and a stepped parapet. The depot served as the hub of a vibrant commercial and industrial center for decades until service was discontinued in 1966. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad currently uses the depot for offices and maintenance right-of-way projects. The employees maintain equipment, switch rails, and provide security communications with headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas.

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The first St. James Episcopal Church was completed in 1901 on the south side of St. James Street (photo 7). The original Gothic Revival-style adobe church has a cruciform plan. It became the parish hall when the current St. James Church was built opposite it on the north side of the street in 1911. The current brick Gothic Revival-style church features a cruciform plan, lancet window, and stone trim (photo 6).

The neighborhood includes two schools: the Mesilla Park Elementary School and the Mesilla Valley Alternative Learning Center. The two original Alternative Learning buildings were built to contend with the escalating elementary student population (photo 43). The property includes several buildings constructed between 1949 and 2007, including administration, classrooms, cafeteria, and a nurse's office. The two original buildings were built in the Territorial Revival style, with flat roofs, dentil-brick cornice, and porches with square chamfered posts.

The Mesilla Park Elementary School is a large, sprawling, one-story school building (photo 32). Designed by Henry Trost and built in 1907, the school is a Spanish Mission Revival-style building with decorative pediment above the main entrance. The brick building was covered with a hipped roof and included four classrooms. As the student population increased, a series of additions were added beginning in 1916 with two additions on the north and south ends to accommodate four additional classrooms and an auditorium on the rear (west) side of the building. In 1934, classroom additions were again added to the north and south ends of the school. In 1943, a new, larger auditorium, which seats 400 students, was built on the west end of the 1934 auditorium. Lastly, in 1963, a cafeteria was built on the southwest side of the roughly T-shaped building.

### Historic Integrity

The Mesilla Park Historic District retains a high level of historic integrity and includes significant numbers of contributing buildings in its commercial, industrial, and residential areas. Contributing buildings were constructed during the period of significance from 1887 to 1965 and retain significant elements of their design, materials, and workmanship as well their historic location and setting. Noncontributing buildings were built after 1965 or were altered so that the building no longer conveys its significance through its design, materials, and workmanship.

### Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

Contributing buildings are each counted as one contributing building.

The plan of streets, including sidewalks, irrigation ditches, and alleys are counted as one contributing site.

Noncontributing buildings are each counted as one noncontributing building.

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## 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 all the boxes that apply.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Commerce

Industry

**Period of Significance**

1887-1965

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1887—Mesilla Park townsite established

1894—Bowman Addition

1925—Railroad depot built

1964—Mesilla Park annexed by the city of Las Cruces

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Mesilla Park Historic District is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture because the commercial, industrial, residential, and community landmark buildings are representative of architectural styles and types built in New Mexico towns from the end of the 19th century through the middle of the 20th century. The Mesilla Park Historic District is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion A in the area of community planning and development because Mesilla Park, which is among the first suburbs of Las Cruces, developed as a complete town with commercial, industrial, and residential areas, all organized along the AT&SF rail line that runs alongside Main Street. The Mesilla Park Historic District is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion A in the area of commerce because the commercial strip represents the efforts by business persons to provide basic goods and services for the residents of Mesilla Park. The Mesilla Park Historic District is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion A in the area of industry because the community served as a regional freight distribution point for local businesses, farmers, and ranchers.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Mesilla Park Historic District is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture because the commercial, industrial, residential, and community landmark buildings are representative of architectural styles and types built in New Mexico towns from the end of the 19th century through the middle of the 20th century. The east and west residential sections are divided by the commercial and industrial areas that line either side of Main Street and the railroad tracks. The earliest east-side houses, described as cottages, were built along Oak Street by the Rio Grande Land Company and financed by the Bowman Bank. The two earliest houses on the west side were built in 1892 in the Queen Anne style by George D. Bowman and Francis E. Lester as their personal residences. As the residential lots developed, mostly small, one-story houses were built in a variety of styles and types. These included Craftsman-style bungalow, Territorial Revival, and the Spanish-Pueblo Revival styles, which were popular in the 1920s and 1930s.

Mesilla Park experienced a building boom in the 1930s and 1940s. During the Great Depression and drought of the 1930s, the New Mexico A&M dramatically expanded course offerings to include the arts and sciences along with home economics and business administration. In the 1933-1934 academic year the chemistry enrollment for a Bachelor's of Science degree was fifty percent of the total enrollment of 475. Also in the 1930s, drama, English, creative writing, and debate were offered. As the course offerings expanded, student enrollment followed with the next year to 558 students, and in the 1938-1939 academic year it increased to over one-thousand students. The college expansion resulted in a need for housing for new faculty, staff, and

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students. This led to a building boom in nearby Mesilla Park. The most prevalent architectural styles built during the 1930s were the Craftsman, Spanish-Pueblo Revival, and Territorial Revival. The largest concentration of faculty homes was built along Bowman Street. J.O. Howker built smaller bungalows on Conway Avenue. The most popular building material for residential buildings was adobe, concrete block, wood-frame, and brick.

After the Second World War, returning veterans purchased affordable American Small Houses in the late 1940s. These were typically one-story houses built of frame with between four and six rooms. By the early 1950s, the Ranch House emerged as the house of choice in Mesilla Park and throughout the nation. Ranch Houses are long and low with subtypes that vary in form from square, compact houses to long, rambling Ranches. Interiors are typically zoned to include open public rooms that are separate from private areas, such as bedrooms. The Ranch House was among the most popular house types in the decades after World War II. Numerous Ranch Houses in the neighborhood were built in revival styles and the modern Contemporary style.

The commercial buildings along Main Street are characteristic of adobe, brick, and frame commercial buildings constructed throughout New Mexico in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Some feature stylistic elements of the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style, but most are covered with stucco, which may obscure decorative brickwork. Most feature *portales* to provide shade for passing customers. The warehouse buildings on Harrelson Street convey the significance of Mesilla Park as an industrial center in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Oil- and livestock feed storage buildings remain intact.

The Mesilla Park Historic District includes a significant number of community landmark buildings. Community landmark resources are buildings or structures that are typically public buildings or other types of resources that because of their location, size, or status have become social or physical landmarks in the community. Historic community landmarks in Mesilla Park include the railroad depot, St. James Church, the Mesilla Park Elementary School, and the Mesilla Valley Alternative Learning Center.

The Mesilla Park Historic District is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion A in the area of community planning and development because Mesilla Park, which is among the first suburbs of Las Cruces, developed as a complete town with commercial, industrial, and residential areas, all organized along the AT&SF rail line that runs alongside Main Street. Mesilla Park is representative of New Mexico towns in which the railroad was constructed before the founding of the town because the plan of Mesilla Park was organized around the railroad. The plats that established Mesilla Park are oriented forty-five degrees from perpendicular in response to the location of the railroad, with rail crossings at University, College, Conway, and Union avenues. The neighborhood was also established with service alleys bisecting most blocks. Most of these alleys remain intact.

George D. Bowman was a banker and landowner, who came to the Mesilla Valley in 1876 as Land Register. He served in that capacity until 1884, when he and his sons, Henry D. and George R. Bowman, founded Bowman and Sons Bank and Trust Company in Las Cruces.

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Bowman and Demetrio Chavez, a leading merchant in Mesilla, invested in land, eventually owning the land between the old Rio Grande riverbed (Park Drain) and the town of Mesilla, south for two miles.

The AT&SF tracks passed between El Paso and Las Cruces in 1881. In the spring of 1887, a plan was quickly devised, and the Bowmans and Chavez sold portions of their properties to Edward Wilder, AT&SF Board Director, Secretary and Treasurer, stipulating that the AT&SF would construct a depot that would stop for passengers and freight, install a telegraph operator, and that all the improvements would be made by September 1, 1887. Bowman and Chavez were investing in their land holdings, which were sold as Mesilla Park. To begin, the AT&SF incorporated the Rio Grande Land Company on June 23, 1887 by authorizing \$250,000 in capital stock. The Rio Grande Land Company filed the Mesilla Park townsite plat with Doña Ana County on August 25, 1887. The first Mesilla Park depot served from 1887 to 1925, when, to make way for the current brick-and-stucco depot, it was moved to the village of Doña Ana.

The depot served passengers arriving to the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (later New Mexico State University), facilitated freight movement, and influenced the development of the Mesilla Park community as the center of a bustling commercial and industrial area. The Mesilla Park depot was used as a passenger station until it closed in 1966. It later served as offices for the Doña Ana County Sheriff and a children's clothing store. It is owned by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, which uses the depot for offices and maintenance right-of-way. The employees maintain equipment, switch rails, and provide security communications with headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas.

The urgency to build the depot by the beginning of September corresponded with the opening of the first Southern New Mexico State Fair. The Land Company built houses financed by the Bowman Bank and planned to market them at the fair. On September 14, 1887, the partnership ran trains from the Las Cruces depot near the fairgrounds to the Mesilla Park depot throughout the day to lure potential buyers to the new community. To further promote sales, the Land Company hired agents, such as William N. Hager, a Station Agent in 1890. As a Land Agent, he developed a significant portion of Mesilla Park.

In 1894, George D. Bowman expanded the original Mesilla Park townsite to include part of his land holdings by filing the Bowman Addition, which added Bowman Street to the west, and College and University avenues to the north. In 1906, three years after George D. Bowman's death, his son, Henry D. Bowman, modified the Bowman Addition plat to include a parcel identified for a public school.

New Mexico A&M is one the important factors that influenced the growth of Mesilla Park. As early as 1886, Las Cruces leaders and education advocates spoke out for the creation of an agricultural college in southern New Mexico. This resulted in the creation of the Las Cruces College on September 17, 1888. Less than a year later, the legislature authorized the creation of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, the school of mines in Socorro, and the insane

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asylum in Las Vegas. New Mexico A&M merged with the Las Cruces College and opened its doors on January 21, 1890 to the east of Mesilla Park.

The Mesilla Park townsite became the residential community of choice for college faculty, staff, and students because of its tree-lined streets, and its housing stock of small cottages. In a 1949 newspaper interview with Sid Howard, former ward of Preacher Lewis and an Oak Street resident, he recalled that there were eleven mail-order houses built in Mesilla Park, and that seven of them remained. Adding to the attraction of Mesilla Park was its close proximity to campus, a half-mile trip on a good dirt road that led from the depot to the college. Las Cruces was a three-mile trip on a rutted road. The road from Mesilla Park to the college campus was College Avenue, locally known as "the Pike." College commuters arrived at the depot and headed east to campus.

Irrigation was an essential factor in the establishment and growth of Mesilla Park. In 1853, the area known as the Mesilla Civil Colony Grant included what is now Mesilla Park. When a flood caused the Rio Grande to change course in 1864, the old river bed became Park Drain that borders the east side of Oak Street. The land grant had been improved by irrigation systems fed by the Rio Grande as early as 1844. In 1898, F.C. Barker wrote in *Irrigation in Mesilla Valley, New Mexico* that "the methods of irrigation and agriculture as practiced in the Mesilla Valley are . . . the oldest that exist in the United States." From 1880 to 1903, approximately 10,000 acres were irrigated in the Las Cruces and Mesilla areas.

By 1905, the Leasburg Dam had enabled the creation of two main canals, the Las Cruces Town Ditch (*Acequia Madre*), and the Laguna Lateral. By 1915, a formal series of community ditches had been developed and managed by property owners. Mesilla Park is currently served from the Elephant Butte Irrigation District, by two main laterals which branch into smaller ditches. The Laguna Lateral forms the Good Shepherd Community Ditch and the Station Master Community Ditch. The College Lateral forms the College Community Ditch and the Fabián Garcia Science Center Ditch. Residences on the north side of Conway Avenue are supplied by the College Community Ditch. Households from Conway Avenue south to Manso Avenue are supplied by the Good Shepherd Community Ditch. Union Avenue residences are supplied by the Station Master Community Ditch. The irrigation ditches provided water for the trees that line the streets of Mesilla Park, provided residential landscaping for homeowners, provided for the local agricultural industry, and enabled crop experimentation at the Fabián Garcia Science Center.

The Mesilla Park Historic District is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion A in the area of commerce because the commercial strip represents the efforts by business persons to provide basic goods and services for the residents of Mesilla Park. One of the major commercial enterprises that helped Mesilla Park thrive was the Francis E. Lester Company Catalog of Mexican and Indian Handicrafts. This Mesilla Park mail-order business was advertised in major publications, such as the *Saturday Evening Post*. The commercial district included businesses to accommodate day-to-day life in Mesilla Park. These were one-story attached and free-standing commercial buildings constructed mostly in the 1930s and 1940s.



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The Mesilla Park Historic District is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion A in the area of industry because the community served as a regional freight distribution point for local businesses, farmers, and ranchers. Centered on Harrelson Street, the industrial district is defined by large, adobe, steel-clad, and concrete-block warehouses, oil and grain offloading storage facilities, and several retail businesses. The depot was an essential component of the district until it closed in 1966. Ray Lankford then acquired existing buildings and built new ones to suit the needs of his tenants beginning in the early 1960s.

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### **Developmental history/additional historic context information**

#### Significant Persons associated with the Development of Mesilla Park

George D. Bowman and his sons, George R. and Henry D. Bowman, were crucial to the development of Mesilla Park. George D. was a banker, landowner, and farmer, who came to the Mesilla Valley in 1876 as Land Register. He served in that capacity until 1884, when he and his sons founded Bowman and Sons Bank and Trust Company in Las Cruces. Bowman and Demetrio Chavez, a leading merchant in Mesilla, purchased the land that was later developed as Mesilla Park. Bowman was instrumental in negotiating with the AT&SF to build the train depot, file the Mesilla Park townsite plat, begin real estate development to establish the town, and to aggressively market the community to potential buyers.

George D. Bowman was born in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, in 1827 to a wealthy Episcopalian English family. After his education in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, he became a newspaper editor, which led him to Minnesota. For a short time in Minneapolis he engaged in farming. In the Mesilla Valley, he renewed his interest in farming by planting forty acres of various fruits. While in Mesilla, as an Episcopal Warden, he was involved in establishing the first St. James Episcopal Mission house and chapel in 1877, wherein he and his family lived until he built his home in Mesilla Park in 1892. Bowman died in 1903 and is buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Las Cruces.

His son, George R. Bowman, was a community leader who helped organize the Las Cruces College and the incorporation of the New Mexico A&M. He also served as a clerk of the courts and as a partner in the bank until 1894, when he retired to Texas.

Henry D. Bowman, son of George D. Bowman, was partner and cashier in the bank, until his father's death when he became president. He resided in the family home in Mesilla Park. Henry was born in 1860. He and his wife, Carrie, had two children. Prior to managing the bank, Henry practiced law in Las Cruces. He served as Receiver of the Land Office from 1897 to 1909. In 1900, he was elected as a delegate to the Republican National Convention and was a member of the New Mexico Territory Central Committee for many years. He served on the New Mexico A&M Board of Regents from 1897 to 1898. He established the Southwest Development Company, a real estate investment company that invested in Mesilla Park. In 1906, Henry modified the Bowman Addition plat to include a parcel identified for a public school. Mesilla

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Park Elementary School was built on this site. That same year, Henry D. and his wife sold twenty-three acres of farmland to the New Mexico A&M to establish the Agricultural Experiment Station on University Avenue, which became the Fabián Garcia Science Center. He died in 1934.

Francis E. Lester was an early promoter of the Arts and Crafts Movement in the United States, and through his mail-order company, shipped wares from the first Mesilla Park depot. Lester was a community leader, who provided the land for the first St. James Episcopal Church. He sold property to the Mission for \$1.00 on the condition that only a church would be built on the site. The St. James Episcopal Church opened in September 1901. He served as president of the Mesilla Valley National Farm Loan Association, the State Farm Bureau Federation, and director of the Doña Ana County Farm Bureau. With the advent of the automobile, Lester served as president of four "Good Roads" associations: Northern New Mexico, Doña Ana County, Lincoln County 6900!, and State Association of Highways. As an avid horticulturalist, he hybridized roses and developed the "Francis E. Lester Rose," which continues to be sold in nurseries. His involvement with the New Mexico A&M included stints as registrar, professor, department head, librarian, creator and editor of *The New Mexico Collegian* newspaper (later *The Round-Up*), and member of the Board of Regents.

The Reverend Hunter "Preacher" Lewis led a vigorous effort to build the current St. James Church, which was completed in 1911. Preacher Lewis was appointed minister of the church and came to Mesilla Park with his ward, Sid Howard, in 1905. He was known for his many outreach and missionary programs. He acted as campus minister for New Mexico A&M, and often provided students with financial assistance, sleeping quarters, and meals. Beginning in 1905, he established missions along the Rio Grande between El Paso and Albuquerque, eventually creating seven churches, and ministering to twenty-one missions. Although his official role was leading the congregants of St. James, he was well known throughout New Mexico with missions in La Mesa, La Union, Hill, Hatch, San Marcial, Lake Valley, Hillsboro, Socorro, Magdalena, Organ, Datil, Rincon, Arrey, Belen, Engle, Corona, and Hot Springs (now Truth or Consequences). Preacher Lewis died in 1948.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Ackerly, Neal W. "A Review of the Historic Significance and Management Recommendations for Preserving New Mexico's Acequia Systems." On file at the Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division, Santa Fe, NM, 1996.
- Anderson, George B. *History of New Mexico: Its Resources and People, Vol. II*. Los Angeles: Pacific States Publishing Company, 1907. archive.org [accessed January 31, 2015].
- Barker, F. C. "Irrigation in Mesilla Valley, New Mexico" in *Water-Supply and Irrigation Papers of the United States Geological Survey, No. 10*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1898. <http://books.google.com> [accessed January 22, 2015].
- Kropp, Simon. *That All May Learn: New Mexico State University, 1888-1964*. Las Cruces, NM: New Mexico State University, 1972.
- Priestley, Lee. *Journeys of Faith: The Story of Preacher and Edith Lewis*. Las Cruces, NM: Arroyo Press, 1992.
- Riskin, Marci L. *The Train Stops Here: New Mexico's Railway Legacy*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005.
- Round-Up*. 15 January 1908. (New Mexico State University). <http://libcgi.nmsu.edu> [accessed February 23, 2015].
- Schurtz, Christopher. "Efforts under way to 'brand' Mesilla Park." *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 15 June 2012. [www.lcsun-news.com](http://www.lcsun-news.com) [accessed June 20, 2012].
- \_\_\_\_\_. "First Southern New Mexico State Fair in 1887: A 'Glorious' Event." *Las Cruces Sun-News*, 2 October 2012. <http://www.lcsun-news.com> [accessed October 20, 2012].
- Wozniak, Frank E. *Irrigation in the Rio Grande Valley, New Mexico: A Study and Annotated Bibliography of the Development of Irrigation Systems*. United States Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, Fort Collins, CO., 1998. [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us) [accessed January 14, 2015].

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Approximately 180 acres. This acreage does not include the 4.40 acres that was listed with Mesilla Park Elementary School nomination.

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 32.278675 | Longitude: -106.775476 |
| 2. Latitude: 32.780872 | Longitude: -106.769161 |
| 3. Latitude: 32.275853 | Longitude: -106.764397 |
| 4. Latitude: 32.272481 | Longitude: -106.771163 |

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**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary appears in green on a map drawn to scale.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Historic District boundaries include the residential, public, commercial, and industrial properties with the highest historical integrity and historically associated with the development of Mesilla Park.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Janet Clements and Dave Clements  
organization: N/A  
street & number: P. O. Box 143  
city or town: Mesilla Park state: NM zip code: 88047  
e-mail: jkwclements@gmail.com  
telephone: 575-524-0500  
date: October 10, 2015

**State Historic Preservation Office**

name/title: Steven Moffson, State and National Register Coordinator  
organization: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division  
street & number: 407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236  
city or town: Santa Fe state: New Mexico zip: 87501  
e-mail [steven.moffson@state.nm.us](mailto:steven.moffson@state.nm.us)  
telephone: 505.476.0444  
date: December 14, 2015

Mesilla Park Historic District  
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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Mesilla Park Historic District

City or Vicinity: Las Cruces

County: Doña Ana County

State: New Mexico

Photographer: Steven Moffson

Date Photographed: September 24, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 48. Commercial buildings on Main Street, photographer facing north.
- 2 of 48. Commercial building at 3211 Main Street, photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 48. Commercial buildings at 3205 to 3209 Main Street, photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 48. Commercial building at 3201 Main Street, photographer facing northeast.

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- 5 of 48. Commercial building at 3111 Main Street, photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 48. St. James Church, St. James Street, photographer facing north.
- 7 of 48. St. James Parish Hall, St. James Street, photographer facing south.
- 8 of 48. 3105 Oak Street, photographer facing east.
- 9 of 48. 3204 to 3200 Oak Street, photographer facing southwest.
- 10 of 48. 3208 and 3206 Oak Street, photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 48. Railroad right-of-way with depot in background, photographer facing northwest.
- 12 of 48. Mesilla Park railroad depot, photographer facing north.
- 13 of 48. Warehouse, 3301 Harrelson Street, photographer facing northwest.
- 14 of 48. Warehouse, 3301 Harrelson Street, photographer facing east.
- 15 of 48. Warehouses on Harrelson Street, photographer facing northwest.
- 16 of 48. Commercial Building at 200 Conway Avenue, photographer facing west.
- 17 of 48. Commercial Building at 102 Conway Avenue, photographer facing northwest.
- 18 of 48. Warehouse at 3055 to 3001 Harrelson Street, photographer facing north.
- 19 of 48. Multi-family housing at 415 College Avenue, photographer facing north.
- 20 of 48. Unpaved ditch, University Avenue, photographer facing southwest.
- 21 of 48. Paved ditch, Bowman Street, photographer facing northwest.
- 22 of 48. 510 and 508 Conway Avenue, photographer facing north.
- 23 of 48. 3101 Bowman Street, photographer facing east.
- 24 of 48. 3103 and 3105 Bowman Street, photographer facing southeast.
- 25 of 48. Conway Avenue, photographer facing northeast.
- 26 of 48. 412 Conway Avenue, photographer facing northwest.

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- 27 of 48. Duplex at 404 Conway Avenue, photographer facing north.
- 28 of 48. 308 to 312 Conway Avenue, photographer facing northwest.
- 29 of 48. 304 Conway Avenue, photographer facing northwest.
- 30 of 48. 3008 Linden Avenue, photographer facing west.
- 31 of 48. 206 Conway Avenue, photographer facing north.
- 32 of 48. Mesilla Park Elementary School at 304 Bell Avenue, photographer facing northwest.
- 33 of 48. 3104 Linden Avenue, photographer facing southwest.
- 34 of 48. Alley from Orange to Linden avenues between Manso and Conway avenues, photographer facing southwest.
- 35 of 48. 322 Manso Avenue (alley), photographer facing east.
- 36 of 48. 400 and 390 Manso Avenue, photographer facing northwest.
- 37 of 48. 404 Manso Avenue, photographer facing northwest.
- 38 of 48. 504 Manso Avenue, photographer facing northwest.
- 39 of 48. 3150 Bowman Street, photographer facing southwest.
- 40 of 48. 3207 Bowman Street, photographer facing east.
- 41 of 48. 3301 Bowman Street, photographer facing east.
- 42 of 48. 3305 (left) and 3307 Bowman Street, photographer facing north.
- 43 of 48. Mesilla Valley Alternative Learning Center at 400 Bell Avenue, photographer facing east.
- 44 of 48. 321 Bell Avenue, photographer facing south.
- 45 of 48. Bell Avenue, photographer facing east.
- 46 of 48. 301 Bell Avenue, photographer facing north.



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47 of 48. 306 Union Avenue, photographer facing north.

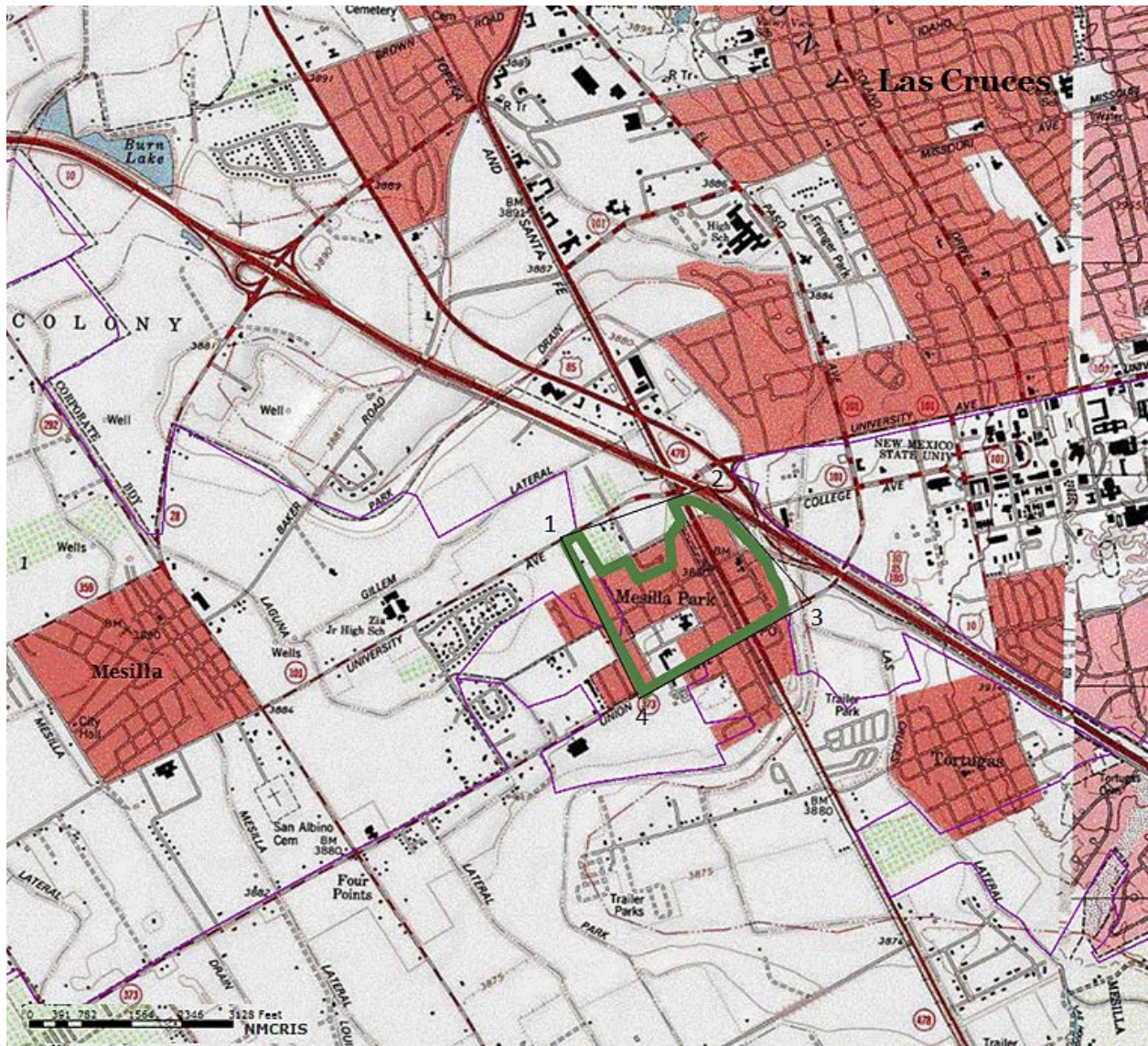
48 of 48. Union Avenue, photographer facing northeast.

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.


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Mesilla Park Historic District  
Doña Ana County, New Mexico

Location Map

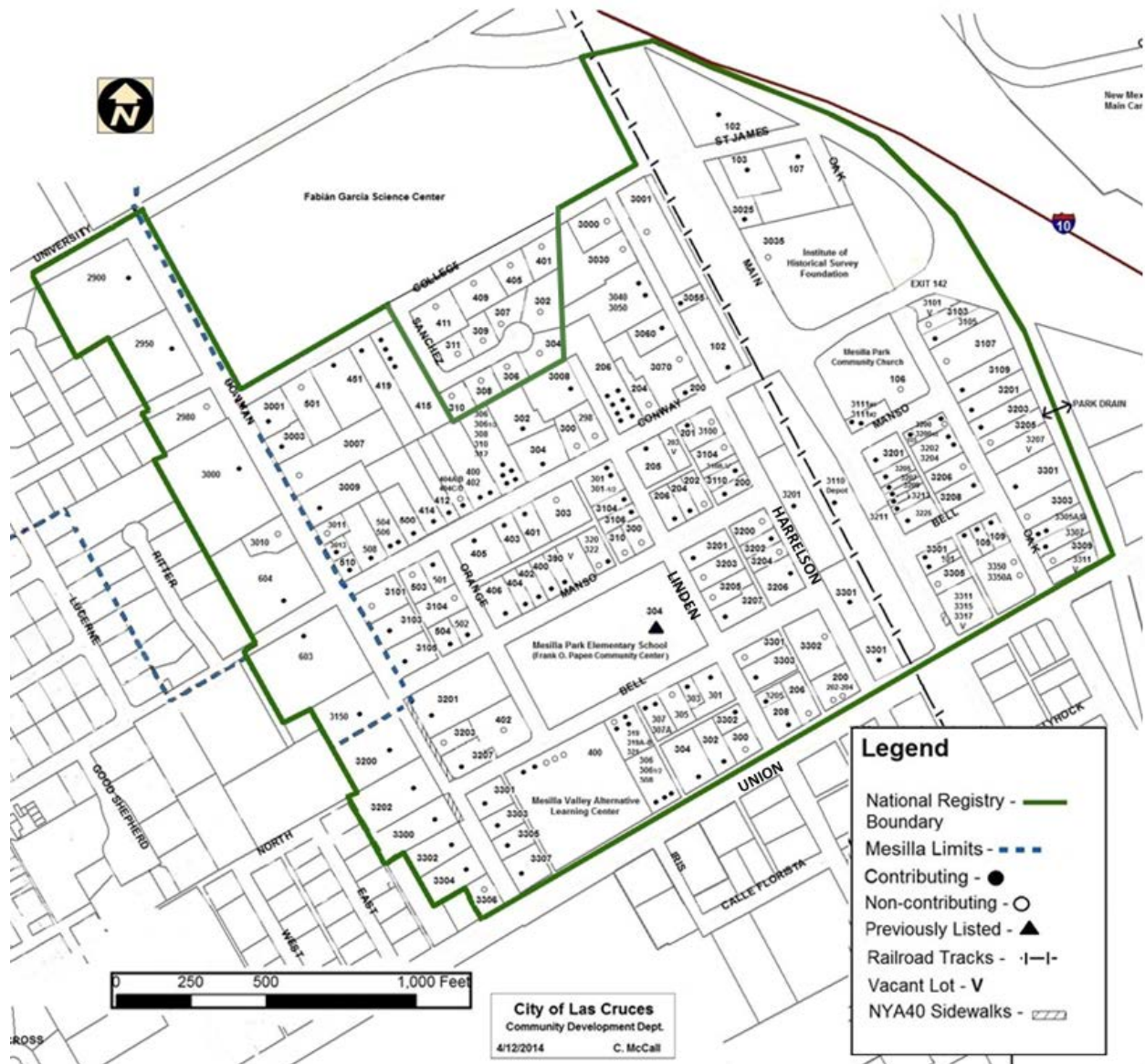
National Register boundary 



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MESILLA PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT, DONA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO - NATIONAL REGISTER MAP



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Mesilla Park Historic District east of Linden Avenue

Mesilla Park Historic District  
Name of Property

Doña Ana, New Mexico  
County and State



Mesilla Park Historic District west of Linden Avenue

Mesilla Park Historic District  
Name of Property

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County and State

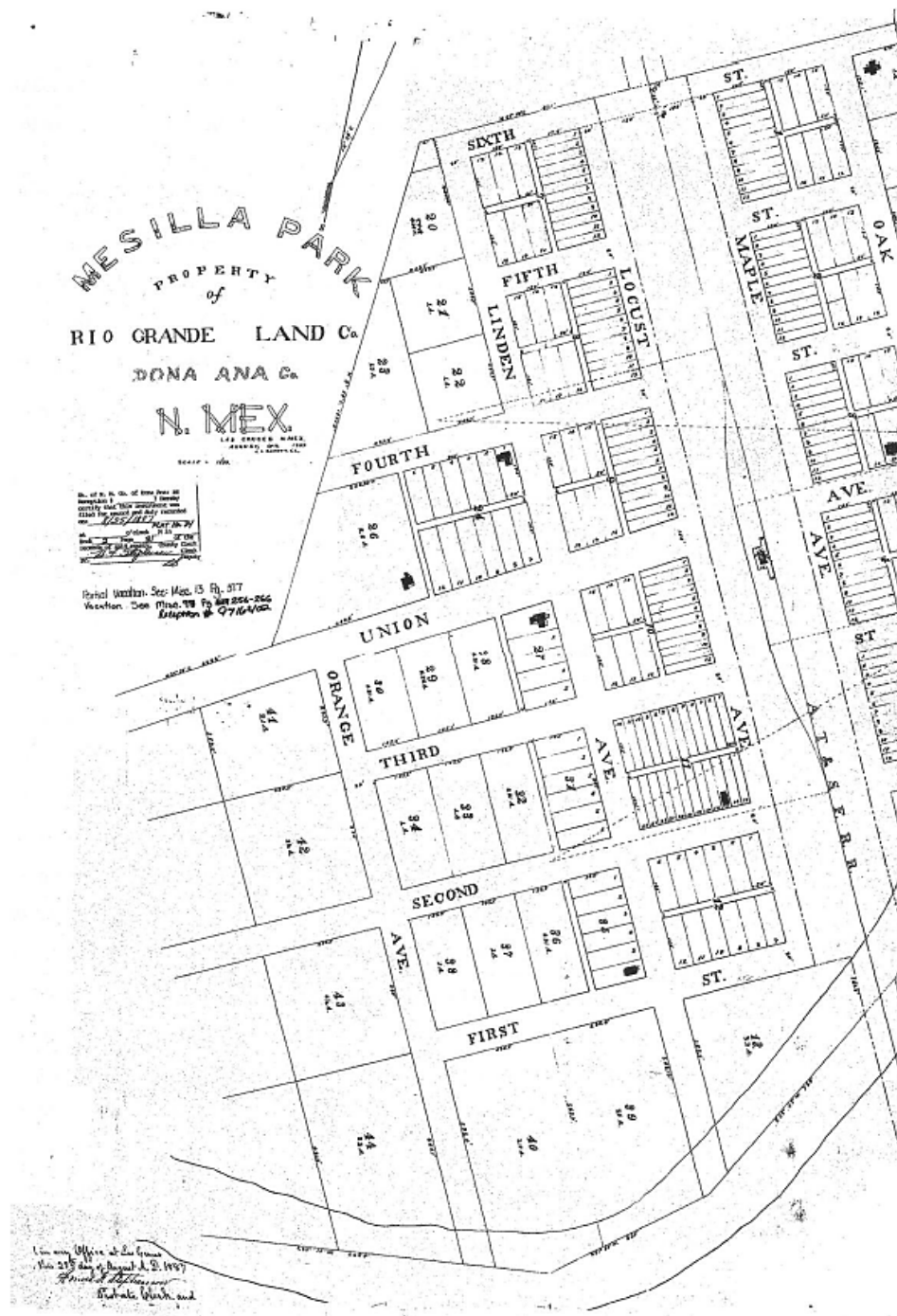


Figure 1. Mesilla Park townsite, Rio Grande Land Company, 1887

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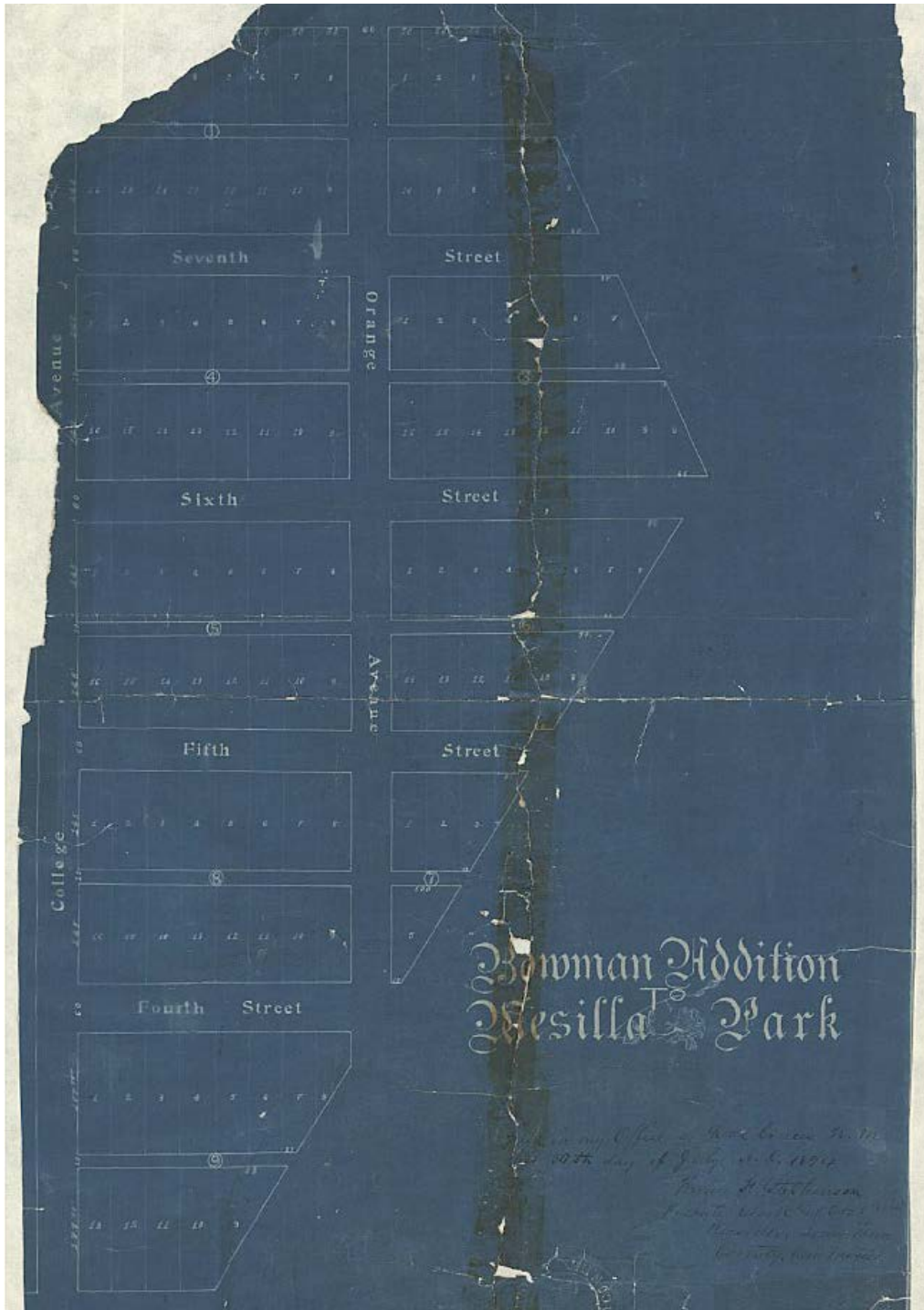


Figure 2. Mesilla Park, Bowman Addition, 1894

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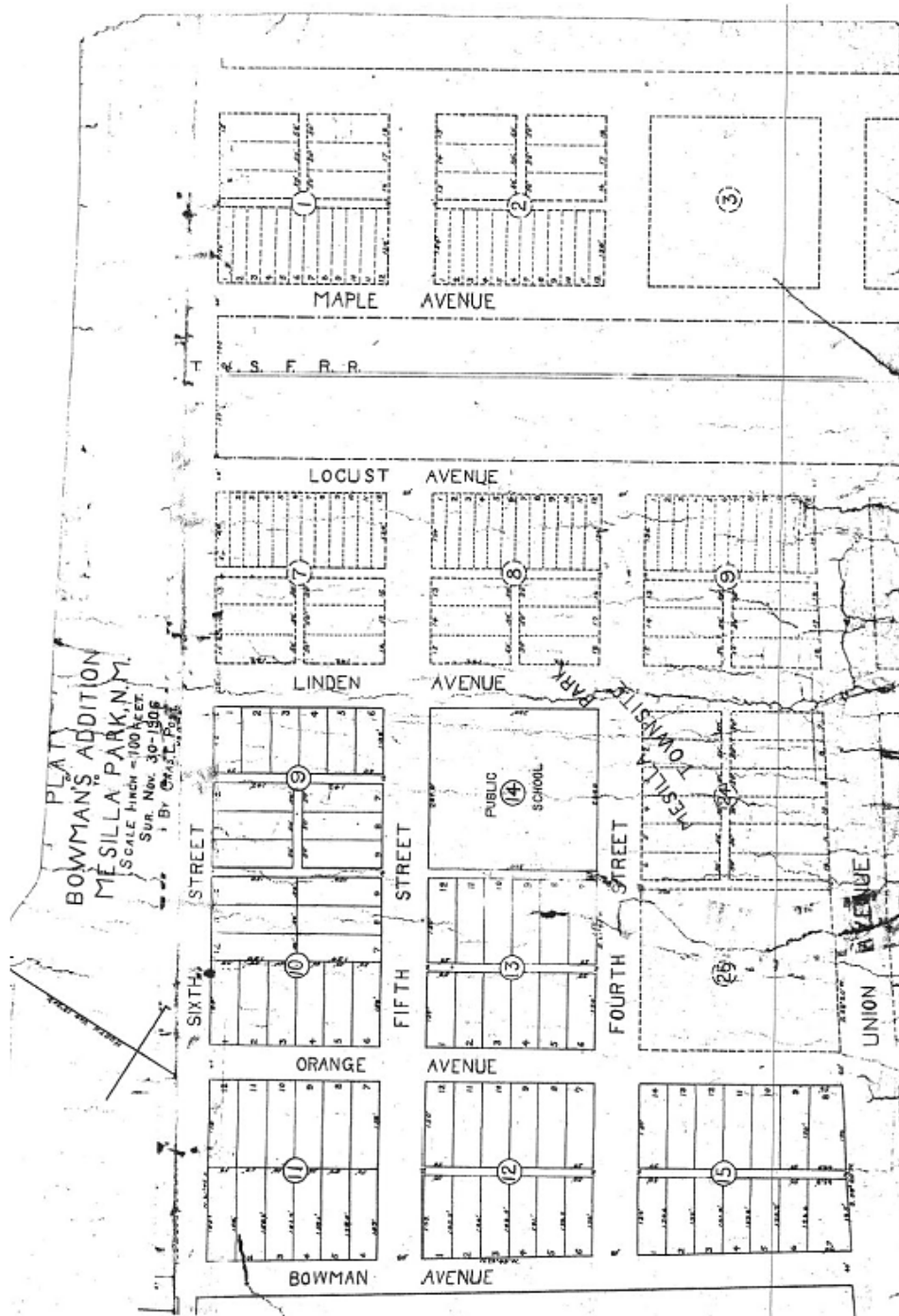


Figure 3. Mesilla Park, modification to Bowman Addition, 1906



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Photographs



1 of 48. Commercial buildings on Main Street, photographer facing north.



2 of 48. Commercial building at 3211 Main Street, photographer facing northeast.

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3 of 48. Commercial buildings at 3205 to 3209 Main Street, photographer facing northeast.



4 of 48. Commercial building at 3201 Main Street, photographer facing northeast.

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5 of 48. Commercial building at 3111 Main Street, photographer facing northeast.



6 of 48. St. James Church, St. James Street, photographer facing north.

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7 of 48. St. James Parish Hall, St. James Street, photographer facing south.



8 of 48. 3105 Oak Street, photographer facing east.

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9 of 48. 3204 to 3200 Oak Street, photographer facing southwest.



10 of 48. 3208 and 3206 Oak Street, photographer facing northwest.

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11 of 48. Railroad right-of-way with depot in background, photographer facing northwest.



12 of 48. Mesilla Park railroad depot, photographer facing north.

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13 of 48. Warehouse, 3301 Harrelson Street, photographer facing northwest.



14 of 48. Warehouse, 3301 Harrelson Street, photographer facing east.

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15 of 48. Warehouses on Harrelson Street, photographer facing northwest.



16 of 48. Commercial Building at 200 Conway Avenue, photographer facing west.



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17 of 48. Commercial Building at 102 Conway Avenue, photographer facing northwest.



18 of 48. Warehouse at 3055 to 3001 Harrelson Street, photographer facing north.

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19 of 48. Multi-family housing at 415 College Avenue, photographer facing north.



20 of 48. Unpaved ditch, University Avenue, photographer facing southwest.

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21 of 48. Paved ditch, Bowman Street, photographer facing northwest.



22 of 48. 510 and 508 Conway Avenue, photographer facing north.

Mesilla Park Historic District  
Name of Property

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23 of 48. 3101 Bowman Street, photographer facing east.



24 of 48. 3103 and 3105 Bowman Street, photographer facing southeast.

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County and State



25 of 48. Conway Avenue, photographer facing northeast.



26 of 48. 412 Conway Avenue, photographer facing northwest.

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Doña Ana, New Mexico  
County and State



27 of 48. Duplex at 404 Conway Avenue, photographer facing north.



28 of 48. 308 to 312 Conway Avenue, photographer facing northwest.

Mesilla Park Historic District  
Name of Property

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County and State



29 of 48. 304 Conway Avenue, photographer facing northwest.



30 of 48. 3008 Linden Avenue, photographer facing west.

Mesilla Park Historic District  
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31 of 48. Duplexes at 206 Conway Avenue, photographer facing north.



32 of 48. Mesilla Park Elementary School at 304 Bell Avenue, photographer facing northwest.



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33 of 48. 3104 Linden Avenue, photographer facing southwest.



34 of 48. Alley from Orange to Linden avenues between Manso and Conway avenues,  
photographer facing southwest.

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35 of 48. 322 Manso Avenue (alley), photographer facing east.



36 of 48. 400 and 390 Manso Avenue, photographer facing northwest.

Mesilla Park Historic District  
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County and State



37 of 48. 404 Manso Avenue, photographer facing northwest.



38 of 48. 504 Manso Avenue, photographer facing northwest.

Mesilla Park Historic District  
Name of Property

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County and State



39 of 48. 3150 Bowman Street, photographer facing southwest.



40 of 48. 3207 Bowman Street, photographer facing east.

Mesilla Park Historic District  
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41 of 48. 3301 Bowman Street, photographer facing east.



42 of 48. 3305 (left) and 3307 Bowman Street, photographer facing north.

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43 of 48. Mesilla Valley Alternative Learning Center at 400 Bell Avenue, photographer facing east.



44 of 48. 321 Bell Avenue, photographer facing south.

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45 of 48. Bell Avenue, photographer facing east.



46 of 48. 301 Bell Avenue, photographer facing north.

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47 of 48. 306 Union Avenue, photographer facing north.



48 of 48. Union Avenue, photographer facing northeast.



THRU TRAFFIC  
WEST  
Deming  
EAST  
El Paso

CUSTOM  
CARTRIDGE  
GUNS AMMO GUNSMITHING  
BUY SELL TRADE  
523-7900

CUSTOM  
CARTRIDGE  
GUNS AMMO GUNSMITHING  
BUY SELL TRADE





LOOK BETT  
FEEL BETT

Mesilla Park  
Barber  
Shop  
Since 19

3213



FUNKY KARMA  
Incense AND Tea Shop

3205

3207

3209

BRAVO'S  
TACOS  
FLAUTAS  
GORDITAS  
MENUDO

Bravo's  
CAFE  
HEALTHY FOOD



3201

**State Farm**  
Kent Byers 523-7881

**Doña Ana  
Republican Party**

3201

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&a20CUNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
&a30CNATIONAL PARK SERVICE

&a22CNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
&a29CEVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mesilla Park Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW MEXICO, Dona Ana

DATE RECEIVED: 2/26/16 &pW DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/28/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/12/16 &pW DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/12/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000161

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 4/12/16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

&a4L

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



March 18, 2015

Cultural Properties Review Committee  
Historic Preservation Division  
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Members of the Cultural Properties Review Committee,

Last fall you honored Las Cruces and the historic Mesilla Park neighborhood by choosing to designate the former Mesilla Park Public School, current Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center, with a place on the Register of Cultural Properties. That is a very much appreciated designation, and coming before you now is a natural next piece for Mesilla Park and for both the communities of Mesilla and Las Cruces.

A number of people got this effort started, but the ongoing and diligent work of Dave and Janet Clements has made possible what is before you now. They saw what was needed and stuck with it until it was done.

As you probably know, George Bowman was one of the founding members of Mesilla Park. His home still stands on one corner of Bowman Street, as does the home of Francis Lester across Conway Avenue. Both were prominent in local history, including the local college that grew into New Mexico State University, as well as in establishing Mesilla Park as a modern and delightful neighborhood almost one hundred and thirty years ago.

Each of the following decades brought more college professors and other local luminaries to this neighborhood, with names like Garrison and Garcia, Goddard and Feather, Tombaugh and Ritter, Borman and Medoff. "Mesilla Park" in more recent decades has continued to evoke a special feel of tree shaded streets and a sense of the oasis in the desert. "Historic" has also long been part of the sense of many of the original blocks of the neighborhood, and official designation will confirm what has been that sense for much of the last century.

As Councillor for District 2, which includes the Las Cruces portion of Mesilla Park, I wholeheartedly thank those responsible for this work and support the designation of this neighborhood as one of historical importance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Z. Smith".

Gregory Z. Smith

**Mayor Pro Tem  
Councillor for District 2**



March 23, 2015

Mr. Steven Moffson  
Cultural Properties Review Committee  
Historic Preservation Division  
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Mr. Moffson,

The Town of Mesilla, NM is pleased to endorse the nomination of Mesilla Park as a historic district.

The Mesilla portion within the proposed historic district boundaries encompasses eight properties on the west side of Bowman Street. They include some of the most historic buildings along Bowman Street, such as the George D. Bowman and Francis E. Lester homes, as well as the Vestal/Barker House. A later addition of this century is the Ritter House, which is of exemplary architectural value.

The Town of Mesilla is proud that Mesilleros Sheriff Mariano Barela and Demetrio Chavez played an important part in establishing Mesilla Park, and our friendship has continued since those formative days in 1887.

On behalf of the Town of Mesilla, we support this nomination.

Nora L. Barraza  
Mayor

In support of historic district - Message (HTML)

File Message Adobe PDF

Ignore X Reply Reply Forward Meeting Move OneNote Mark Categorize Follow Translate Find Related Select Zoom  
Delete All Respond Move Actions Unread Tags Editing Zoom


You replied to this message on 1/19/2016 9:38 AM.

From: Karin Wiburg <kwiburg@ad.nmsu.edu> Sent: Mon 1/18/2016 9:45 AM  
To: Moffson, Steven, DCA  
Cc: jkwclements@gmail.com  
Subject: In support of historic district

I wanted to let you know that my husband Marv and I, Karin Wiburg are in strong support of becoming part of an historic district. I am sorry I could not make the meeting since I got home from work too late. Our address is 3203 Linden Ave. and our house was built in 1948. We gave all the information on our house to Jon Hunner's students when they visited us.

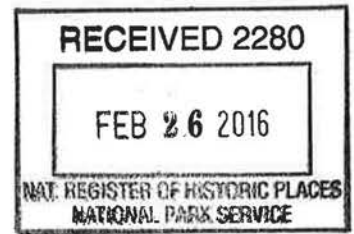
I hope this goes forward. Please let us know of future events regarding this historic district. Thanks, Karin Wiburg

Click on a photo to see social network updates and email messages from this person.





STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION



Susana Martinez  
Governor

BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING  
407 GALISTEO STREET, SUITE 236  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501  
PHONE (505) 827-6320 FAX (505) 827-6338

February 19, 2016

J. Paul Loether  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W. 8th floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Mesilla Park Historic District in Doña Ana County, New Mexico to the National Register of Historic Places.

- Disk of National Register of Historic Places nomination form and maps as a pdf
- Disk with digital photo images
- Physical signature page
- Sketch map(s)/attachment(s)
- Correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do  do not  constitute a majority of property owners.
- Special considerations: Note that this property is nominated at the national level of significance.

Sincerely,

Steven Moffson  
State and National Register Coordinator

Enclosures