

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94001403

Date Listed: 12/16/94


Hurley, Arch, Conservancy District
Office Building
Property Name

Quay
County

NEW MEXICO
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

12/22/94

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 3

This nomination is amended to show that the FPO recommends that the property be considered significant at the local level.

This amendment was discussed with Ed Friedman, FPO for the Bureau of Reclamation, and with Rob Freed, at the Albuquerque Projects Office of the BOR (12/21/94).

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
other names/site number Tucumcari Project Office Building

2. Location

street & number 101 East High Street not for publication
city or town Tucumcari vicinity
state New Mexico code NM county Quay code 037 zip code 88401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

See memo dated 10/24/94 and 11/1/94
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Lyn Sebastian Acting SHPO April 19, 1994
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

M. J. M. [Signature] 12/16/94

Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
Name of Property

Quay County, NM
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/government office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Pueblo revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Stucco

roof Asphalt
other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Politics
- Government
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1940

Significant Dates

1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Hurley, Arch (see continuation sheet)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

Primary location of additional data:

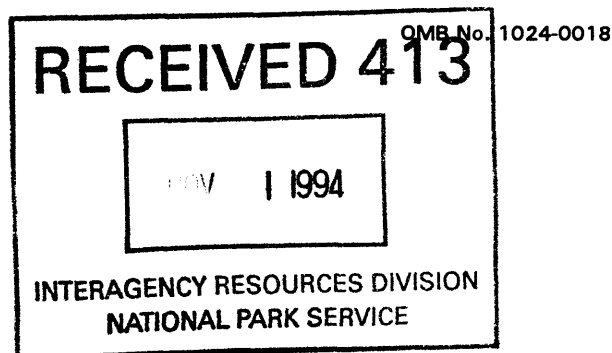
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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Section 7 Page 1



Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
Quay County, NM

DESCRIPTION

The following narrative is based on Phillips (1994).

General Construction

The AHCD office building was built from plans (BOR 1940; end papers) still on file at the building. The style is Spanish-Pueblo Revival (UNM 1980), but in a fairly austere form reflecting the building's origins--a government structure from just before World War II.

The main portion of the building is rectangular and measures 100 feet, 4 inches by 37 feet, 1 inch. The portal measures 50 feet, 9 inches long by 7 feet wide. A later furnace room attached to the north face of the building measures 15 feet, 4 inches long by 5 feet, 6 inches wide.

The foundation and floors consisted of poured concrete; a crawl space is present under the central hallway. Exterior walls consist primarily of concrete block, although poured concrete was used in wall segments where primary roof beams tie in. The block dimensions are 12 by 8 by 6 inches. Exterior walls were finished with cement stucco, painted tan.

The building has a flat roof and simple parapet. Roof construction varies; in the two main rooms, beam-and-post support was used, consisting of (1) peeled-log posts; (2) massive hand-hewn rectangular primary beams, extending from the posts to the exterior walls; (3) rectangular sawed secondary beams, adze-marked along the bottom to make them look hand-hewn; and (4) tongue-and-groove decking. In the clerical room, one of the posts incorporates a *zapata*.

In the central portion of the structure, the "secondary" beams and decking are also present but are supported by frame construction.

The portal includes round, peeled-log posts on low concrete bases, squared primary beams, round secondary beams, tongue-and-groove decking, and a recent tar paper roof. The portal floor consists of sandstone flags laid in cement mortar; two short walks of the same construction extend from the portal to the WPA concrete sidewalks.

Wood casement windows were used in most of the building, in three styles: (1) in quadruples, with the two center windows being fixed; (2) in triples, with the center window being fixed; and (3) in tandem. In each of the two bathrooms, small fixed windows were placed high. The windows have hand-hewn lintels, wood surrounds, and concrete lug sills.

Interior and exterior doors were in a vertical plank style; some doors include lights in their upper half. Exterior doors have hand-hewn lintels and poured concrete sills; interior doors have wood frames.

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Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
Quay County, NM

DESCRIPTION, CONTINUED

Roof drainage is off the rear of the structure, through downspouts of galvanized sheet metal. The original drawings specify copper-lined wood *canales* for roof drainage, so the downspouts may be replacement features.

Heat was originally provided through floor ducts; these are no longer in use and most of them have been removed or blocked over.

Interior and Furnishings

The interior of the structure included two large open areas: an engineering room at the east end and a clerical room at the west end. A hallway ran down the long axis of the building, connecting the two large areas and dividing the central portion of the structure into north and south halves. The south half consisted of an entry hall and three individual offices for senior engineers. (Where the entry hall and transverse hall met, a slightly wider area served as a small public foyer next to the clerical room.) The north half included (west to east) a storage room, a women's bathroom, a small janitorial closet, a men's bathroom, a blueprint room, and a vault with reinforced concrete walls.

Interior wall surfaces were plastered (over lath, for interior walls) and painted white. Except for built-in shelving, woodwork (including posts, beams, roof decking, doors and door frames, window and window frames, and baseboards) was stained and varnished to a golden oak finish. Almost all the windows retain what appear to be their original--or near-original--coverings: wood slat venetian blinds, stained and varnished to the same finish.

The bathroom fixtures and wood stalls are as indicated in the plan for the building.

Flooring consists mostly of sheets of composite material laid directly over the poured concrete floor.

Much of the furniture in the building is the original furniture, or at least of an age and style consonant with that of the building itself.

Landscaping and Associated Features

Based on photographs at the AHCD, landscaping at the building was established by the mid-1940s and consisted of a lawn, small perennials (?) planted along the flagstone walks, deciduous trees planted at the edges of High and Second Streets, and ornamental junipers planted next to the building itself. A photograph dated April 1943 shows the placement of one of the junipers.

Most of the deciduous trees have since died and remain only as stumps; the lawn and the junipers are doing well.

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Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
Quay County, NM

DESCRIPTION, CONTINUED

No outbuildings are present on the property, which is barely larger than the building itself. The original flagpole, which is set in a small hexagonal concrete base, is still being used. A tall wood pole, set just behind the rear of the building, appears to be the original radio mast but is no longer used; a metal replacement radio tower has been erected on the building's roof.

Age of the Structure

The BOR's computerized building inventory lists this structure as being built in 1938, and the sidewalk outside the structure is inscribed "WPA/1939," but both dates are inaccurate reflections of the building's true age. As described in Section 8, the building's dedication ceremony took place in December 1940.

Modifications to the Structure

All doors and windows appear to be original. The only obvious modification to the structure's exterior is a metal radio tower and the addition of a small furnace room to the north or rear side of the building. This room was built of concrete block and stucco, with a flat roof and simple parapet, and thus conforms to the original construction. Neither the radio tower nor the furnace room detract noticeably from the original structure.

In the interior, several substantial changes have been made. The engineering and clerical areas, which formerly were open areas, have been partly divided with interior walls. The original subfloor heating system has been replaced with an HVAC system originating from the new furnace room and extending through the interior via duct work routed through the bathroom area, central hallway, and individual rooms. This duct work is hung from the historic ceiling, in plain view. In addition, recent electrical work has been run in highly visible conduit on wall surfaces and ceilings, and most of the original lighting fixtures have been replaced or supplemented with fixtures of various non-conforming styles.

The modifications to the interior are, visually speaking, highly intrusive, but are generally placed over the historic interior construction. The fabric of the interior, including doors and surface finish, is largely untouched. It would not be difficult to re-route or alter previous modifications to minimize their visual impact.

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Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
Quay County, NM

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historical Context

Where no specific citation is provided, information provided below has been culled from the AHCD files (including AHCD n.d. a, b; Anonymous 1940, n.d.; BOR 1951; Keimig and Mutch 1937). Many of the reports in the files were based on one another, so individual references would be repetitive.

Tucumcari was part of New Mexico's empty spaces until 1901, when it became apparent that the Rock Island Railroad would pass through the valley north of Tucumcari Mountain. Local entrepreneurs rushed to establish a townsite in time for the railroad's arrival. A year later (1902), 5 million acres (20,000 sq. km) of local public land were opened for settlement. Quay County was founded in 1903 (Moncus and Knapp 1985:15-18).

As happened everywhere in the region, local boosters eyed the few permanent streams (no matter how meager) and developed plans to impound the water, store it, and divert it to previously marginal land. Usually, these individuals saw the irrigation projects as their path to greater fame and glory--especially if they held title to lands to be irrigated. From 1911 until his death in 1927, the leading local irrigation promoter was Ralph J. Freeland (Anonymous 1940). Freeland was presumably involved in obtaining the design services of William B. Freeman, who argued (1912) for a Tucumcari Irrigation District of 30,000 acres (12,100 ha), drawing from Pajarito creek.

Nothing came of this scheme, however--the costs of delivering water to the Tucumcari area were so great, relative to the economic returns, that it took federal involvement to make the project a reality.

Establishing the AHCD: A Study in Persistence

As the Twenties were roaring, a group of Tucumcari businessmen began pushing for the one thing that would put northeast New Mexico on the map--water. Called the "Canadian Valley (or River) Development Association," the group included at least three key players and was created in 1925 (Anonymous 1940), though initial efforts may have begun two or three years earlier.

Henry Burt ("H. B.") Jones (b. 12/5/1877, d. 3/19/1941) was the president of the association. In a 1945 vanity publication (Davis 1945:217-218), Jones described himself as a "pioneer banker of Eastern New Mexico, and one of the outstanding builders of the State [who] had a potent influence on the industrial development of Eastern and Central New Mexico."

Jones's father was a banker in Marcellus, Michigan, but when he turned 21 the young Jones went looking for the frontier, or what was left of it, in New Mexico. In 1901, he found himself in the railroad boom camp of Santa Rosa and organized a bank that later became the First National Bank of Santa Rosa. In 1910 he bought the controlling interest in the First National Bank of Tucumcari, and moved to that town.

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Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
Quay County, NM

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTINUED

"H. B." also established a series of banks in other towns and came to own ranches and urban property in much of the eastern part of the state (Davis 1945:217; Clark 1983:251-253; Moncus and Knapp 1985:382). As a bank owner and president, Jones was certainly one of the most powerful man in northeast New Mexico. Today, it is difficult to imagine the stranglehold banks once had on small rural land holdings, but Jones was probably the biggest player in the effort to obtain an irrigation district. For the most part, however, he seems to have stayed in the background, while two other persons--J. L. Briscoe and Arch Hurley--took more visible roles in the fight.

James L. Briscoe (b. 8/8/1890) was the association's attorney, and appears to have taken the lead in organizing and directing the effort. Briscoe was born in Abilene; his family moved to Dotson, near Tucumcari, in 1902. Briscoe's father was a rancher, a Mason, and a Democrat; Briscoe's mother served as Dotson postmistress for 20 years (LHPC 1961:666).

Briscoe began practicing law in 1919, and was senior partner of his own law firm. In 1933 he was enrolled to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. In a 1945 vanity publication, Briscoe stated of himself, "He has an exceptionally large clientele with most of his activities devoted to matters of a civil nature" (Davis 1945:276). Briscoe was also active politically, having served as Quay County Assessor (in 1915 and 1916) and Mayor of Tucumcari (in 1920 and 1921) (LHPC 1961:666; Davis 1945:276).

Arch Hurley (b. 2/24/1880, d. 9/6/1956) was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, but spent his early years in Wichita Falls, Texas. In 1913 he moved to Tucumcari and became prominent as the operator of the town's movie theater. This was the era of the Silent Screen, and Hurley enlisted his wife and children to provide live music for the movies. Hurley eventually owned and operated a chain of theaters (TDN 1956; Moncus and Knapp 1985).

Running movie theaters may be an odd background for a key player in an irrigation battle, but Hurley's high profile in the community must have combined with a winning personality. Hurley was also, apparently, a civil engineer (TDN 1956). His local obituary claimed that Hurley had "joined the struggle [for the irrigation district]... in 1922"--this may be a year or two too early--"and made it his life's work" (TDN 1956). In the process, Hurley developed an expertise on the subject in general. In 1940, a newspaper article (TDN 1940) mentioned that Hurley was a director of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, and the obituary (TDN 1956) described him as a "widely-known authority on water resources."

R. J. Freeland, who had been pushing for irrigation for years, became the secretary-treasurer of the association but died before the group made any real progress.

As a whole, the group had ties, other than shared business interests, that help explain its success. All were members of the dominant ethnic group in eastern New Mexico, with strong social connections--for example, at least two of them (Jones and Briscoe) were Masons. In addition, they were well connected with the state's Democratic party. In other words, the project backers were a fairly small but extremely tight-knit group whose common background and goals enabled them to have a decided influence on local, state, and even national affairs.

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Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
Quay County, NM

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTINUED

Even so, the difficulty of bringing water to Tucumcari meant government involvement on a large scale. The project thus involved enormous political efforts as well as great costs. Early on, the project backers seem to have realized that there was not enough support for a project whose sole purpose was to irrigate land around Tucumcari. Instead, they began pushing the Conchas Dam as a flood control measure, knowing that once the dam and reservoir were in place, the major hurdle to completing the irrigation project would be cleared.

It was probably no coincidence that beginning in the 1920s, a series of studies of the Canadian River watershed was completed. The Army Corps of Engineers studied the Arkansas River Watershed under the Acts of May 21, 1924 and the Flood Control Act of May 15, 1928. Volume 3 of the published report (House Document No. 308) deals with the South Canadian River. Meanwhile, in 1925, the state of New Mexico began its own study of the South Canadian River watershed. The project was completed in 1929 under H. W. Yeo, State Engineer, and was described in the latter's *Ninth Biennial Report*, for 1928 to 1930. At this time, the U.S. Geological survey also mapped the area of the proposed irrigation system (Anonymous 1940).

During the 1920s, the greatest obstacle to the project--besides New Mexico's poverty and lack of power--was Republican political dominance at the state and national levels. The balance of power changed with the start of the Roosevelt era in 1933. The new administration's emphasis on public works projects, along with the strong ties between Roosevelt and the state's Democrats (including the governor, Clyde Tingley), set the stage for federal backing of the local irrigation project. In 1934, the Secretary of the Interior established the Arkansas Basin Committee to study the management of the Arkansas River. Along with the earlier studies, the work of this committee was to give the backers' proposals the weight of government endorsement.

However, the backers had a long way to go to gain actual support, and they began a new phase of intense political activity. During this period Arch Hurley repeatedly went to Washington, D.C. to serve as the group's lobbyist--becoming the visible embodiment of the struggle to get water to Tucumcari. In all, Hurley made 34 trips to Washington (TDN 1956), including an extended stay during passage of approval for Conchas Dam.

The AHCD's files include Hurley's original letters to Briscoe, and carbon copies of Briscoe's responses. These documents make it clear that constant lobbying was the key to extracting what was needed from the legislative machinery. It is also clear that "appropriation," not "authorization," is what mattered. At various stages in the game, formal approval for the project did not equate with funding, and vice versa. If the money was in a bill, formal approval was not much of a worry. If, in contrast, the money was in jeopardy, having an approval in hand was scant comfort.

The first great task was to get the dam built. On November 23, 1935, governor Clyde Tingley wrote to Briscoe to state that

...As a result of President Roosevelt's personal interest in the Conchas Dam project, it was possible for me to obtain complete federal financing for purchase of the dam site.

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Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
Quay County, NM

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTINUED

In January 1936, attorney Briscoe was able to write to Hurley that the first steps were being taken towards formation of a conservancy district to make use of the waters from the dam. This was an election year, however, and Carl Hatch, U.S. Senator from New Mexico, wrote to Jones and Briscoe in February to fret that Roosevelt's defeat would set back the Conchas Dam for "years and years."

The project backers completed their first legislative march with passage of the Flood Control Act of July 22, 1936--approving construction of Conchas Dam. Although this was to be a Corps of Engineers project (given the dam's "primary" role as a flood control structure), the irrigation project would be based on a previously funded dam upstream.

Before final passage of the bill, L. H. Mitchell of the BOR completed a four-day anticipatory reconnaissance of the Tukumcari area. It appears that another agency also anticipated passage of this bill. On May 9, 1936, E. M. Markham, Major General, Corps of Engineers, wrote to Congressman John J. Dempsey of New Mexico,

...The District Engineer, Captain Kramer... advises me that preliminary construction operations are practically completed. The excavation of the dam site is well advanced and plans and specifications for the main structure can be advertised within a short time, after the appropriation becomes available.

As this letter predates the signing of the act, it would appear that the Corps had received executive instruction to proceed prior to actual congressional approval.

In October 1936, the BOR established an office in town and began field studies for the Tukumcari Project, the yet-to-be-approved irrigation component of the overall scheme. The field studies were completed about April of the following year, and the report (Keimig and Mutch 1937) was favorable towards the proposed irrigation project even though some of the land was somewhat marginal. One of the authors, Harold W. Mutch, was to become the BOR's resident engineer for the project.

On February 8, 1937, a meeting was held in Tukumcari to start a local conservancy district. Those attending included the mayor, the city council, and the directors of the Canadian Valley Development Association. The city decided to sponsor the district, to be named after Hurley. On April 21, 1937, the Arch Hurley Conservancy District was formed (under Chapter 30, NMSA 1929; Chapter 50, Laws of 1931; and Chapter 37, Laws of 1934); the district court--as required by law--approved its formation on August 3.

At the same time, Governor Tingley issued an executive order appointing Briscoe, Jones, and a Mr. O. S. Greaser (of Obar, Quay County) as the "Canadian River Irrigation and Flood Control Commission." The exact purpose of the commission is unclear but it may have been formed to add further official sanction to developments. With Briscoe and Jones filling two of the three commissioners's positions, there was little doubt how the panel would react to the Tukumcari project.

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Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTINUED

The key authorization for the Tukumcari Project was provided in the Act of August 2, 1937 (50 Stat. 557). The initial act was later amended by the Act of April 9, 1938.

In October 1938, the BOR opened its project office in Tukumcari. On December 27, 1938, the federal government and the conservancy district signed a contract under which the Bureau of Reclamation agreed to build the Tukumcari Project and the conservancy district agreed to repay the construction costs, interest-free, over an extended period.

Even so, the project was not out of the woods. Building the irrigation system cost far more than could be recovered from user fees. The project backers took two steps to bring the project within acceptable federal limits. First, a deal was cut with the President to provide \$2.5 million dollars of WPA labor, thus reducing the overall construction cost. Second, the backers sought to supplement the fees to be paid by water users:

The City of Tukumcari, with a population of 4100, lies within the district. The amount of the annual charge to be borne by the City of Tukumcari is uncertain. The city could not be obligated except by vote of the people, but the property within the city might be obligated by the order of the district court after appraisal and hearings on benefits accruing from project construction (AHCD n.d. a:88).

Deciding that local voters would not support a tax increase, the backers instead successfully amended federal law (through the Reclamation Contract Act of 1939) to allow certain districts (actually, just the Tukumcari project) to tax non-irrigated properties.

The document just cited also describes land ownership patterns within the proposed irrigation district:

The lands are now held in tracts ranging from 20 acres to 7,000 acres. The project includes a gross area of about 75,000 acres, 20,000 of which are owned by seven individuals exclusive of the Bell Ranch lands (AHCD n.d. a:92).

Because federal law would restrict ownership of irrigated lands to 160 acres or less, development of the district meant that "some 500 settlers" would be needed to purchase and develop individual farms (AHCD n.d. a:92).

The final hurdle was to acquire a right-of-way for the canal between Conchas Dam and Tukumcari, through the Bell Ranch. The basic quid pro quo was irrigation water for the ranch, in exchange for a right-of-way, but negotiations (with the Red River Valley Co., which owned the land) became quite difficult and it was a while before access across the ranch was secured.

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Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
Quay County, NM

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTINUED

Construction of the Conservancy District

Conchas Dam, the "flood control" portion of the project, was completed by the Corps in 1939. The BOR began construction of the irrigation system in 1940, but in December 1942 work was halted by the War Production Board. Work later resumed after the district's backers had it declared a war priority, and water first flowed to the fields in 1946, irrigating 2,526 acres. The BOR completed construction of the irrigation system in 1954. Stated irrigation capacity of the newly completed system was 42,321 acres.

On April 25, 1939, Hurley wrote to Briscoe and mentioned, "I want to see what, if anything, can be done about our Government building, and will look into the matter as soon as I can find time." According to an anonymous manuscript (1940), President Roosevelt approved construction of the building on May 15, 1940.

Once the backers got approval for the building, Briscoe began a further lobbying effort--to have it built away from the equipment yard (which was literally on the wrong side of the tracks). A portion of a lot at High and Second Streets was purchased from A. T. Gordon and Helen Gordon on June 27, 1940, for \$3,000.00 and conveyed to the federal government without charge.

Construction of the High Street office building took place in the summer and fall of 1940. A photograph at the AHCD office, dated July 9 of that year, shows "...Manufacture of cement cinder blocks by W.P.A. men. These blocks are to be used in the construction of the new administrative building..."

The building was based on plan and elevation drawings dated April 9, 1940 and preserved at the AHCD (BOR 1940; Phillips 1994). In a note that will seem incredible to today's taxpayers, the building cost \$17,472.00 (TDN 1940).

The Tucumcari Project Office, as it was then known, was dedicated on December 21, 1940, with Arch Hurley officiating (TDN 1940). When the scheduled speaker (Congressman Dempsey) was unable to show, Hurley also gave the keynote speech. The building was used by both the Bureau of Reclamation and the AHCD from 1940 through 1953, and exclusively by the AHCD starting in 1954.

Subsequent History

Arch Hurley apparently was the first president of the irrigation district named after him, H. B. Jones served as a board member, and Briscoe was the district's attorney. Clearly, the same alliance that worked so hard to create the conservancy district was now firmly in control of it.

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Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
Quay County, NM

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTINUED

In 1942 and 1943, however, Hurley and Briscoe had a falling-out. Briscoe asked the district to contribute to the National Reclamation Association, a lobbying group. Hurley declined, arguing the donation was illegal. As Briscoe retorted, he (Briscoe) had arranged for an equally questionable donation by the City of Tucumcari when needed to support Hurley in Washington. Hurley dug in his heels but Briscoe convened the board of directors in Hurley's absence and had the donation approved anyway. It is not clear the two former allies ever patched up their differences.

In later years, Arch Hurley seems to have done fairly well. He continued to serve on the board of the conservancy district until 1955, and was a ranch owner and herbicide dealer (TDN 1956). Photos of a roundup on the "Arch Hurley Ranch" are preserved at the AHCD. Hurley was living in Amarillo with his second wife when he died in 1956.

As of 1961, J. L. Briscoe was still on the scene and described himself, through a vanity publication (LHPC 1961:666; cf. Davis 1945:276), as "a senior member of the bar fraternity in Tucumcari... Mr. Briscoe, whose hobby is promotion of the Tucumcari Irrigation Association, has visions of a great future for his community."

H. B. Jones, who may have been the real power behind the entire irrigation effort, never saw the project's completion; he died in 1941 while in New Orleans (Davis 1945:218).

On January 1, 1954, after the BOR had completed its construction work, the Arch Hurley Conservancy District undertook active management of the Tucumcari Project under a lease from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Summary of Significance

Criterion A

As the administrative site for the Bureau of Reclamation's Tucumcari Project from 1940 to 1954, and for the Arch Hurley Conservancy District (a public entity) from 1940 onwards, the building has played a prominent role in the history of the irrigation district. Moreover, the building was consciously sited and built to be a symbol of the district. Thus, the building appears to be directly associated with an important event in local history--the creation of an irrigation district against great odds.

Criterion B

The AHCD office building is directly associated with three leaders of the Tucumcari business community whose establishment of the local irrigation district mark them as significant to local history. These three individuals are Arch Hurley (movie theater owner and lobbyist), H. B. Jones (the dominant banker in this part of New Mexico), and J. L. Briscoe (a highly influential attorney).

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTINUED

The three worked as a team to ensure the construction of the office building, as part of their larger irrigation initiative, and were leaders of the AHCD when that organization first occupied the building. The association between these individuals and the building is underscored by the fact that the irrigation district is named after one of them.

Criterion C

The AHCD office building is an example of a small federal office built in the Pueblo revival style towards the end of the Great Depression, and typical of those years its lines are simple--the "traditional" embellishments do not overshadow the fundamental austerity of the building. The blue lines found at the AHCD (and reproduced in Phillips 1994) show that the building conforms closely to the original design. The original exterior appearance is largely unchanged, and current landscaping closely resembles that first established for the building. The interior includes some unsightly alterations but the interior fabric is largely undamaged. Many of the furnishings in the building appear to be original or of an age similar to that of the building itself. In largely rural northeastern New Mexico, the AHCD office building is a conspicuous and well-preserved example of late Depression Era government architecture.

Period of Significance

The period of significance, 1940, is the construction date.

Other Significant Persons

Jones, Henry Burt ("H. B.")
Briscoe, James L.

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AHCD

n.d. a History and Status of the Tukumcari Project, Tukumcari, New Mexico.

n.d. b Input for the Water Information Seminar for Senator-Elect Jack Schmitt. Ms. at Arch Hurley Conservancy District office, Tukumcari.

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BOR

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1940 Reclamation Building is Dedicated. *Tucumcari Daily News* 39(55):1, 8. Microfilm copy at Kenneth Schlientz Library, Tucumcari; bound copy at *Quay County Sun*, Tucumcari.

1956 Arch Hurley Dies in Texas Home. *Tucumcari Daily News* 57(178): 1. Microfilm copy at Kenneth Schlientz Library, Tucumcari; bound copy at *Quay County Sun*, Tucumcari.

UNM

1980 *New Mexico Historic Building Inventory Manual*. University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning, Albuquerque.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

"The South Sixty (60) feet of Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 of Block 18 of the Original Townsite of Tucumcari, New Mexico, said tract being bounded on the south by High Street one hundred twenty-five (125) feet and on the west by Second Street sixty (60) feet."

Boundary Justification

The boundary description cited above was provided by James L. Briscoe (as Attorney for the Arch Hurley Conservancy District) to G. Herkenhoff (State Director, Division of Operations, W.P.A.) in a letter dated July 13, 1940.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA

1. Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
 2. Quay County, New Mexico
 3. David A. Phillips, Jr.
 4. August 30, 1993
 5. State of New Mexico, Historic Preservation Division, Santa Fe.
 6. Front elevation; view to NE
 7. # 1
-
1. Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
 2. Quay County, New Mexico
 3. David A. Phillips, Jr.
 4. August 30, 1993
 5. State of New Mexico, Historic Preservation Division, Santa Fe.
 6. West elevation, view to SE
 7. # 2
-
1. Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
 2. Quay County, New Mexico
 3. David A. Phillips, Jr.
 4. August 30, 1993
 5. State of New Mexico, Historic Preservation Division, Santa Fe.
 6. East elevation, view to W
 7. # 3
-
1. Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
 2. Quay County, New Mexico
 3. David A. Phillips, Jr.
 4. August 30, 1993
 5. State of New Mexico, Historic Preservation Division, Santa Fe.
 6. Former engineering room, view to NW.
 7. # 4

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PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA, CONTINUED

1. Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
2. Quay County, New Mexico
3. David A. Phillips, Jr.
4. August 30, 1993
5. State of New Mexico, Historic Preservation Division, Santa Fe.
6. Former engineering room, view to E.
7. # 5

1. Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
2. Quay County, New Mexico
3. David A. Phillips, Jr.
4. August 30, 1993
5. State of New Mexico, Historic Preservation Division, Santa Fe.
6. Former clerical room, view to NW
7. # 6

1. Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
2. Quay County, New Mexico
3. Delbert D. Suggs
4. April 18, 1942
5. Original negative not located; copy negative at State of New Mexico, Historic Preservation Division, Santa Fe
6. Front elevation, view to NE (original caption: "Bureau of Reclamation's Administration Building, Tucumcari, N. Mex.")
7. # 7

1. Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
2. Quay County, New Mexico
3. A. S. Ross
4. December 5, 1944
5. Original negative not located; copy negative at State of New Mexico, Historic Preservation Division, Santa Fe
6. Front elevation, view to NW (original caption: "Tucumcari Irrigation Project, Region five. The office building of the U.S.B.R. after heavy snow fall.")
7. # 8

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Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
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PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA, CONTINUED

1. Arch Hurley Conservancy District Office Building
2. Quay County, New Mexico
3. Delbert D. Suggs
4. April 8, 1943
5. State of New Mexico, Historic Preservation Division, Santa Fe.
6. Early landscape work (original caption: "Placing of evergreen tree in lawn, Bureau of Reclamation office building.")
7. # 9