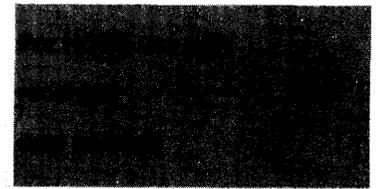


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



**1. Name**

historic Werner-Gilchrist House

and/or common Gilchrist House

**2. Location**

street & number 202 Cornell S.E.  not for publication

city, town Albuquerque  vicinity of 1 congressional district

state New Mexico code 35 county Bernalillo code 001

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Stanwood B. Formes

street & number 208 Wellesley Drive S.E.

city, town Albuquerque  vicinity of state New Mexico 87106

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bernalillo County Courthouse

street & number 505 Central N.W.

city, town Albuquerque  vicinity of state New Mexico

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title HLS has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date September 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Landmarks Survey

city, town Albuquerque, New Mexico  vicinity of state New Mexico

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## 7. Description

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

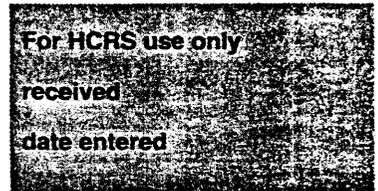
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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Built in 1908, the Gilchrist House at 202 Cornell S.E. is an unusually large and assertive example of the Hipped Box style. It stands on a four lot site in a residential section south of the University of New Mexico on the mesa east of downtown Albuquerque. The bilateral (almost quadrilateral) symmetry of the house is carried out by a steeply-pitched hipped roof and, on each roof slope, four hipped dormers each with paired windows. Boxed-in eaves make the roof into a unifying cap over the building's heavy adobe first floor. This elemental compositional geometry is the structure's strongest feature. Shed-roofed porches added about 1915 to the front and rear complete the design.

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Continuation sheet    DESCRIPTION    Item number    7    Page    1

A stone foundation supports sixteen-inch thick adobe walls on the first floor which give way to wood frame construction above. The windows are 1/1 wooden sash with simple wooden surrounds. The rear porch, however, has 2/2 wooden sash windows, indicating, perhaps, that it was added later than the front porch. Window screen frames made of 2 x 4's are an unfortunate, though minor, addition. The main entry way door, now somewhat obscured by the front porch addition, is a single leaf surrounded by side and transom lights. Wooden lintels, now covered by stucco, cap all doors and windows. Two stuccoed brick chimneys abutting the side dormers are a secondary feature.

Inside, a twelve-foot wide entry hall reminiscent of the central hall in Territorial Style houses runs the length of the house front to rear, broken only by a columned room divider with two lumber yard classic columns. This room divider, a lathe-turned stair railing and a mirror framed by decorative boards over the hall fireplace are the interior's sole decorative embellishments. The walls of the entry hall are twelve-inch thick adobe, while frame walls define the rooms on either side. The second floor is entirely given over to a large, cross-shaped room with arms extending into the dormers.

To the side and rear of the main house are a greenhouse, a garage and carport, and a garage-size workshop which is connected to the house by an enclosed breezeway of recent and flimsy construction. Of the out-buildings, only a small, relocated railroad switchman's house is of interest. It is 5-6 foot square with shingled roof atop board and batten sides; boxed eaves and ridge files complete the roof.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1908 **Builder/Architect** R. W. Gilchrist & others unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Werner-Gilchrist House was one of the first houses built on Albuquerque's east mesa and is the oldest remaining structure in the University Heights Addition, which was platted in 1906. The house was built in 1908 for Mrs. Laura Werner and her son-in-law Ralph Gilchrist. This family was in the vanguard of the thousands of people who would eventually buy or build homes on the vast scrub and grass-covered plateau stretching from above the irrigated lands of the Rio Grande Valley to the Sandia Mountains on the east. Encouraged by developers who platted huge tracts of land and by their own land speculation dreams, new and old Albuquerque residents flocked to the cheap new homesites on the mesa, a pattern now being repeated on the city's west mesa. The Werner-Gilchrist house, a sturdy adobe hipped box style building still surrounded by small outbuildings and the remnants of extensive plantings, is a landmark in the neighborhood, standing in marked contrast to the smaller homes and recent apartment buildings which now surround it. It is a solid evocative record of the initial period of the city's eastward growth.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bernalillo Co. General Index, Grantor/Grantee, Books 5,6; Albq. City Directories; Museum of Albq. Photoarchives; Bernalillo Co. Marriage Licenses, Book 5, p. 496; Dewitt, Susan, Historic Albuquerque Today, (Albq.: Historical Landmarks, 1978), p. 110; Personal Communications: Nora Gilchrist, Bill Tefft.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .5 acre

Quadrangle name Albq. East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

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

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The property nominated is a rectangular lot, 145x100; Lots 1-2, Block 10 of The University Heights Addition

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

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher Wilson, Mary Davis, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Landmarks Survey

date December 24, 1981

street & number P. O. Box 1293

telephone 766-4720

city or town Albuquerque

state New Mexico

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Thomas W. Nelson*

title

State Historic Preservation Officer

date

6-25-82

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The University Heights Addition was platted and offered for sale by the University Heights Development Company, spear-headed by Colonel D.K.B. Sellers, one of the city's leading land developers during the first third of the 20th century. Colonel Sellers had already platted and sold 700 lots west of downtown and subdivided an area to the north which he sold in thirty days. He served one term as mayor and also was President of the State Fair Association. The University Heights addition was touted as a residential adjunct to the University of New Mexico which lay just to the northwest. The official plat made the legally gratuitous, though symbolically important, gesture of recording the plan of the University along with the actual addition street plan. Streets were named for important colleges: Yale, Harvard, Stanford, Cornell, Vassar, and so forth. Among the first to own lots were former governor L. Bradford Prince, University President William Tight and numerous faculty members. When the Werner-Gilchrists built at 202 Cornell in 1908, however, the neighborhood was still little more than a fantasy marked by wooden surveyors stakes. The only road from downtown was "a wavering sandy lane as far as the University; from there a wagon road wound uncertainly till it entered Tijeras Canyon, . . ." (1)

The house is an excellent example of the Hipped Box style, impressive more for its size and the simplicity and sweep of its roof and dormers than for any applied wooden details. The sturdiness of its adobe walls was perhaps prompted by stories similar to that circulated in the early 1900's--and reported by local writer Kenneth Balcomb--of "the health seeker who built a little frame house out on the mesa, but made the mistake of leaving a knothole in the west wall. The sand-laden wind blew through the knothole until it wore out the entire house." (2) Because of its single owner, the house remains very much as it appeared in early photographs.

The house was built on land purchased by Mrs. Laura E. Werner, a widow, and Ralph Gilchrist, her son-in-law. They bought half of block 10 including six lots facing Cornell and six facing Stanford on the east. Mrs. Werner was probably related to an old Albuquerque family whose most prominent member was Melchior Werner, a leading 1870-1880's Old Town businessman who served as postmaster for many years, as did his grandson 50 years later. Mrs. Werner also worked at the post office as an assistant postmaster. Ralph Gilchrist was a carpenter and had come from Massachusetts for his health. He married Mrs.

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Werner's daughter Nora on December 24, 1908, just a few months after the house was completed. Nora Werner Gilchrist lived at 202 Cornell from that year until her death in 1981 and raised two children there. Her husband died in 1920 and her mother in 1930. She worked as a secretary for Colonel Sellers and, over the years, sold off eight of the original twelve lots. She was 98 when she died, the oldest member of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral congregation. The house was left to the cathedral fund in her will and was recently sold to Stanwood Formes, who hopes to renovate the building for residential or, possibly, office use.

(1) Balcomb, Kenneth. A Boy's Albuquerque 1898-1912. Albuquerque, 1980, p. 60.

(2) *ibid.*, p. 88-89.