

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	2/15/83
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Albuquerque Veterans Administration Medical Center

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2100 Ridgecrest, SE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

VICINITY OF

1

STATE

New Mexico

CODE

35

COUNTY

Bernalillo

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Medical

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Veterans Administration

STREET & NUMBER

810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Land Management Service
VA Office of Construction

STREET & NUMBER

810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

VA Historic Sites Survey

DATE

continuing

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

VA Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

GENERAL SITE

The historic district within the Albuquerque VA Medical Center is located in the southeastern section of the city, about five miles from downtown. The campus is about 83 acres of landscaped land bounded on the east, south and west by Kirkland Air Force Base and on the north by Lovelace Bataan Medical Center, a private facility, and by single-family and multi-family residential units. It is about 2 miles from Albuquerque International Airport, 3 miles east of I-25 and 3 miles south of I-40. Major access is from San Mateo Boulevard and Gibson Boulevard which intersect the northwest corners of the site.

ORIGINAL APPEARENCE

The entry road proceeds directly to the front of main building 1, the focal point of the campus. To the right, or west, of the main road are the old quarters buildings. To the southeast of building 1 is a quadrangle formed by arcades connecting buildings 1 on the NW corner, 2 on the NE corner, 3 on the SE corner and 4 on the SW corner. Behind the quadrangle are the original service and warehouse buildings.

A combination of Spanish and Pueblo Revival styles was used. All of the buildings have the typically pueblo massing with boxy terraces receding back as the buildings gain height. The planar wall surfaces are all finished in beige stucco and capped off at the flat roofs with projecting wooden beams. These beams that appear throughout the original buildings are copied from the Indian viga. The vigas form the accent for the "corredors," archless wood columned covered walkways, connecting the four principle buildings.

Building 1 is asymmetrical with box-like massing. It steps up in terraces, varying in height from one to four stories. A five story tower rises off-center of the main entrance, which consists of three portals surrounded by roughly hewn lintels and columns. The ceiling of the Main Lobby is finished in beautifully hand carved wood beams or vigas that are decoratively painted revealing the Indian motifs. These still remain. Building 2 features two rounded bell towers with battered walls on either side of the entry, giving the structure a resemblance to a pueblo church. Buildings 1, 2, 3, 4, and the quarters have pueblo and Spanish details such as timber framed porches, decorated corbels and lintel beams, vigas, patio gardens and pueblo style arcades, often randomly placed at the upper levels (in the case of buildings 3 & 4). Straight headed windows are set deep into the walls. The engineering support buildings are plainer with less detailing but their scale, massing, finish materials and minimal details are the same as the main buildings.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The buildings looked as if they intruded upon the barren land. They were stark, without the softening benefits of trees or shrubs. Shortly after construction of the buildings, small trees and shrubs were added. Grass was planted to provide color to the desolate site, especially on the slight mound in front of the quarters buildings. The major roadways were lined in deciduous trees. An open space created between buildings 1 & 4 to the west of the quadrangle was planted with pine trees which were bordered with the larger trees.

The entire site was constructed as one complete entity. The finish materials and detailing were consistent throughout the property. The patient buildings were sited to be close, yet not too close, to each other and were connected with the open covered walkways. The service buildings, while not exceptional in detailing, blended with the overall design statement. It was surrounded by spacious lawns that emphasized the beauty of the buildings and their unity.

CURRENT APPEARANCE

The greatest change in the site over 50 years has been the maturing of the trees and shrubs. The entrance roadway and the drive in front of the old quarters buildings are lined with tall leafy trees. The pine trees in the grove are massive and provide shade and refuge to the patients and visitors. Flower and shrub gardens have been added around the patient buildings; many gardens have a southwestern flavor, others are more "English" in nature. Clusters of flowers and shrubs line roadways and accentuate grassy islands, as well as brighten the walkway surrounded courtyard. A grove of trees near the entrance provides shade for patient picnics.

Several buildings have been added within the historic district boundaries and others to the surrounding VAMC property.

Within the district: a small one room pagoda shaped dining structure was added on the south side of building 2 and constitutes an intrusion; an intrusive temporary building was added to the edge of the pine grove and is used currently as the director's office; building management occupies a similar temporary building near the service complex; in the 1970's, a new education building was added between buildings 3 & 4 off of the walkway, but due to sensitive design treatment, it is not intrusive and harmonizes well with the existing buildings; several years after the original construction was completed, several garages (bldgs. 26, 27, & 31) were added to the rear of the quarters building area and by the nature of their design are intrusions.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

Building 29, design of those four buildings detract from the cohesiveness of the site and the structures are missing the qualities that make the other buildings so special. Over the course of 50 years, there have been countless station-level projects to repair and improve various areas of the district. These projects have been of a minor nature and are too numerous to document.

Outside the district boundaries: a large massive four story medical building (#20) was added to the east of the district. It is in a modern style with very little of the detailing of the original complex. The massing is out of scale with the other buildings and thus does have a detrimental effect on the ambience of the nearby historic district.

INTEGRITY

Neither the buildings added within the district or those added nearby detract significantly from the complex to compromise the integrity of the site as an architectural gem. The site still appears as one cohesive area in design and ambience. The VA is endeavoring to keep a separation between the old "historic district" and the "new campus" to the east in all of its future construction projects on the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

ALBUQUERQUE BUILDING LIST

<u>Bldg.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Building Use</u>
1	1932	Contributing	Administration
2	1932	Contributing	Canteen and Recreation
3	1932	"	Pulmonary Care & N.H.C. Unit
4	1932	"	Supply Libraries, & O.T. Clinic
5	1932	"	Warehouse
6	1932	"	Engineering Shops
8	1932	"	Engineering Office & Shops
9	1932	"	Laundry
10	1932	"	Research
11	1932	"	Research & Day Treatment*
12	1932	"	Research Office**
13	1932	"	Neuro. Ophthalmology**
14	1932	"	Acos./Ed. & Hospital Based Offices**
15	1932	"	Research Pharmacy**
18	1939	"	Alcohol Rehabilitation**
23		"	Flag Pole
26	1938	Non-contributing	Engineering & Supply Storage
27	1934	"	Two Car Garage
29	1938	"	Engineering & Research Storage
31	1939	Intrusion	One Car Garage
32	1937	Contributing	Gate House
34		Intrusion	Package Chiller
35		"	Transformer
39	1978	Non-Contributing	Education Building
40		Intrusion	Air Chiller Pad
57	1952	"	Trash Room Building
58	1953	"	Pest Control
62	1954	"	Water Filter House

(*) formerly Nurses' Quarters

(**) formerly single family staff Quarters

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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1932

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Veterans Administration

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Albuquerque Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) in south east Albuquerque, New Mexico is eligible for the National Register under criteria C. It is significant at the State level for its outstanding Spanish/Pueblo Revival style architecture in an institutional context and for its regional landscaping. It is an architectural expression of the VA's desire to design buildings that not only fit in with the local architecture of Albuquerque, but also to design an cohesive medical complex with outstanding architectural merit.

In a VA booklet, The Nation Builds For Those Who Served, the Albuquerque VAMC is cited as a unique design solution:

At Albuquerque, the projecting wooden beams, carefully copied from the Indian viga, cast deep shadows across the planar wall surfaces. The central administration building seems to mount in terraces suitable both to the multi-story organization favored by the Veterans Administration and the ancient pueblo settlements. The necessary buildings, scattered on this site to give isolation to patients, are finished in stucco and thickly proportioned giving the effect of adobe building. Between them run verandas with bracketed columns such as the Spanish introduced into the area. The blunt wall and flat roof design of all the site buildings are characteristic of Pueblo Revival. In the recreation building another feature of the pueblo style can be seen in the roughly rounded towers which rise from a battered base. No functional or structural explanation exists for the use of battered walls or wooden beams as the buildings are of standard steel frame and masonry construction. The usage here demonstrates the importance of local tradition to the architects of the Veterans Administration.

The desire on the part of the VA federal planners to adapt to local design traditions was a significant trend in institutional planning. The Albuquerque VAMC is not part of the VA's "Architectural Set", which is a thematic group of VA planned and designed hospitals constructed throughout the nation between 1922 and 1949. While planned

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. The National Building Museum and The Veterans Administration, "The Nation Builds Those Who Served"
2. Lois Craig, "The Federal Presence, Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Buildings."
3. The Historic Landmarks Survey of Albuquerque, "Historic Albuquerque Today"
4. VA Title Files 5. Baker Morrow, "Notes on the Historic Landscape of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico."

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 40

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,3</u>	<u>35,53,8,0</u>	<u>3,88,0399</u>	B	<u>1,3</u>	<u>35,53,7,0</u>	<u>38799,2,5</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u>1,3</u>	<u>35,56,9,0</u>	<u>3,87,9840</u>	D	<u>1,3</u>	<u>35,58,1,5</u>	<u>38801,0,5</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary line runs from the entrance to the western property line, behind the old residential buildings (12-18), follows south along the roadways behind bldg. 26, around behind bldg. 10, buildings 9, 8, 6, 5, between buildings 3 and 20. On the east, it curves around bldg. 3 to the roadway in front of bldg. 20; it follows the roadway to bldg 2, then parallels the main entrance road 200 feet to the east up to the north property line and the entrance.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Gjore J. Mollenhoff, VA Historic Preservation Officer
Karen R. Tupek, Program Analyst

ORGANIZATION	<u>Veterans Administration</u>	DATE	<u>December, 1982</u>
STREET & NUMBER	<u>810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.</u>	TELEPHONE	<u>(202) 389-3447</u>
CITY OR TOWN	<u>Washington,</u>	STATE	<u>D.C.</u>

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

[Signature] 1-3-83
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *[Signature]*

TITLE Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12/27/82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature] 8/19/83
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

from prototype floor plans, each "set" building's facade was stylistically adapted to reflect the tastes and overall architectural trends of the community. Historically, it is not known why a standard "set" plan was not used at Albuquerque, but it can be surmised that the designers felt that the prototype did not lend itself to a southwestern pueblo adaptation. Albuquerque, while not of the prototype plan, was stylistically designed to be welcome in its host community in the southwest. Its exterior design and floor plans are unique, but these buildings were adapted from important functional relationships and building siting principles used in the "set" buildings. The administration building is always the most prominent one and the focal point from the entry road. The recreation building is to the side of the administration building. Specialized patient buildings with integral functions form a quadrangle which is enclosed by open or closed-in corridors connecting the buildings. The quarters are generally separated and to the side. The simpler engineering buildings are in a complex to the rear of the campus.

The Albuquerque VAMC is an excellent illustration of the pueblo method of design and construction in an institutional setting. The fine detail of construction and the cohesiveness of the campus are rare in the area. The battered stucco walls, timber framed porches, decorated corbels and lintel beams, vigas, patio gardens and pueblo style arcades are all well executed. The landscaping, planted 50 years ago by the VA, is unique to the area in its planned design: controlled yet natural in appearance. The mature pine grove to the west of the quadrangle is especially valued by regional landscape architects because of its age, beauty and clustered arrangement. The mature trees framing the roadways and the scattered gardens are noted for their maturity, design and horticultural content. The integrity of both the original complex of pueblo style buildings and the surrounding landscaping has not been compromised by later small construction projects. The site still retains continuity and integrity as a complex with uniform design and materials of a southwestern flavor.

SITE HISTORY

Under Federal land laws, Section 36 of each township was reserved for the State to be used in support of public education. The Albuquerque site is located in Sec. 36, Township 10 North, Range 3 East of the New Mexico Principle Meridian.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

In the 1920's, the War Mothers Memorial Association was incorporated in New Mexico to further efforts to establish a tuberculosis hospital for veterans. In 1926, Albuquerque was selected for the hospital site. Donations of land and funds were solicited from the public.

In 1929, suit was filed against the Association claiming that the donations had been used as collateral for a bond issue and the proceeds used to make partial payment to the State for Sec. 36, T10N, R3E, NMPM. The suit further charged that the Association planned to subdivide and sell the donated land, leaving the bonds unbacked, and payments due for the site. The funds already received had gone in large part for high salaries and expenses to the Association President and a number of his colleagues in the Association. It was requested that a trustee be appointed to protect the assets of the Association and the interests of the bondholders.

The court finally endorsed an agreement reached by the various parties whereby a specified portion (approximately 125 acres) of Sec. 36 could be sold if it would bring in enough to pay off the amount due for the entire parcel and other outstanding obligations. The court also ordered that the remaining 515 acres be offered to the federal government for a Veterans Bureau hospital.

The warranty deed was executed in November of 1930, giving title for the Albuquerque site to the newly created Veterans Administration.

CONSTRUCTION BACKGROUND

On the 515 acres of flat barren land, the VA constructed 15 buildings at the cost of \$1,250,000. They were opened in August 1932, with 262 operable beds.

A total "campus" was constructed in a Pueblo Revival style so as to provide a cohesive, restful site for tuberculosis patients, located to take advantage of the hot dry climate. The original buildings, which still retain their architectural integrity, make up the historic district. A major TB hospital replacement building, constructed in 1951 to the east of the original courtyard, is very plain and does not contribute to the district. It is excluded from the district boundaries.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The buildings are architecturally significant for their Pueblo Revival styling, distinctive detailing, cohesive massing and siting. At a distance, they give the impression of an old Indian pueblo. Mr. Merlan, the State Historic Preservation Officer, states a good case for the site's significance:

The VA Hospital, built in 1931 and dedicated in 1932, is a notable example of the regionalism which exerted a "temporizing influence" on federal construction during the period between the World Wars. During this time, "Regional ... motifs found their way into the work of the Construction Division of the Army's Quartermaster Corps and the Construction Service of the new Veterans Administration ...

The buildings of the VA campus in Albuquerque are an excellent illustration of this expression in federal architecture. The Federal Architect of October 1932, reporting on the new VA Hospital in Albuquerque, said "it was felt that the atmosphere of ... picturesque pueblos was so definitely associated with the country of New Mexico in particular that in perpetuating it with modern building materials a lasting monument to the aborigines of America might be erected.

The campus buildings were developed, apparently by more than one architect, with a range of Southwestern revival features from Mission to Pueblo. The buildings are described in a thesis by Edna Bergman: "Both individually and as a group, the Veterans Administration buildings clearly embody the intention to be puebloan, with an incomplete and noticeably varied understanding of what pueblos or old New World churches are really like."

However, a re-examination of these "romantic" revival styles in the light of today's re-evaluation of the modern movement in architecture appears relevant. It seems that we are once again attuned to the importance of symbol and continuity in our built environment. The ensuing search

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

for a meaning beyond utility may well spark a revival of interest in these structures once decried as examples of "stage-set architecture." Certainly the fine craftsmanship evidenced in the VA Hospital's Southwestern massing and styles, timber-framed porches, decorated corbels and lintel beams, vigas, patio gardens and Pueblo-style arcades reflect an appreciation of the regional architecture and a successful and influential adaptation of that architecture for institutional use.

LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE

Many local architects and historians feel the VA Hospital in Albuquerque is also significant for its outstanding southwest landscaping. In a statement submitted to architect W.C. Kruger for Analysis of Hospital Grounds and Master Plan, August 1982, Baker Morrow states:

The historic landscape was created in the 1930's when the the area was a short grass prairie outside city limits. The landscape was typical of federal landscapes in New Mexico during the Depression era. Rolling, well-treed lawns were developed in a "Frontier Pastoral" style. Buildings were accentuated with shrubs and flower plantings, though many of these plantings were removed. Pueblo Revival colonnades created transitions between the buildings. The hospital's buildings and its grounds were a focus of interest for the city as it grew in the 1930's, 40's and 50's. The beautifully landscaped Ridgecrest Drive was developed by the City as a link between the University and the VA Hospital. The hospital served as a model for the development of institutional landscaping throughout the State. The historic VA grounds today serve many of the original functions: patient therapy, pleasure for visitors and staff, and an ongoing example of a classic American landscape style. The grounds are recognized for their beauty as an Albuquerque landmark and are an important and influential part of the development of landscape architecture in New Mexico.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 6

In the Long Range Facility Study, W. C. Kruger also states that:

The intention of the landscaping draws heavily on the formal English Garden Style, in its use of broad lawns, tree-lined drives and stands of sycamore, mulberry and elm trees. However, as is often the case in New Mexico, the formality of the English Garden Style gave way to the unhurried and slightly rough character of the Southwest. As a result, one finds portals (covered walkways) linking buildings while providing views of flower gardens and fruit trees. There are broad, formal lawns studded with pampas grass and tall Ponderosa pines and a sprinkling of yuccas and succulents.

The landscaping is locally significant for several reasons: the tall trees lining the roadways are not only superbly planned and pleasingly arranged but more mature than most others in the area. The VA purposefully planted native shrubs and trees that were typically southwestern in content and design on the originally barren site. The mature pine grove is quite rare to the area. The smaller gardens scattered throughout the site were planted with great thought and have matured into beautiful horticultural wonders. Today, after 50 years of growth, it is the largest collection of large plantings placed by man in the area. The surrounding neighborhoods patterned their development of tree lined streets and ordered shrubs on the nearby established VA grounds.

Historic Albuquerque Today has listed the buildings at the VA Hospital in "The Historic Landmark Survey of Albuquerque." As well, the landscaping was cited in the First Annual Report: Registry of Historic Landscape, State of New Mexico prepared in May, 1982, by Morrow and Worley, P.A.

The Albuquerque VA Hospital is a significant statement of Federal planning. It reflects a conscious policy to design buildings that "fit in" and appear as part of the host community. As a result, the buildings embody an important trend in twentieth century eclecticism - the use of a historical style for a symbolic purpose.