

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Historic Resources of Downtown Gallup
McKinley County, New Mexico

1. Name: Old U.S. Post Office (Clay Fultz Agency)
2. Location: 201 South First Street
Gallup, New Mexico
3. Classification:
Category building
Ownership private
Status occupied
Accessible yes: unrestricted
Present Use commercial
4. Owner of Property:
Clay Fultz
201 South First Street
Gallup, NM 87301
5. Location of Legal Description:
McKinley County Courthouse
205-209 West Hill Street
Gallup, New Mexico
6. Representation in Existing Surveys
New Mexico Historic Building Inventory
August 1985
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
228 E. Palace Avenue, Rm 101
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503
7. Description:
Condition excellent
altered
original site

The old U.S. Post Office in Gallup is an almost square, free-standing, governmental building. Built in 1933, this structure is a mix of several styles, including Mediterranean, Decorative Brick Commercial, and Spanish Pueblo Revival.

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Standing on the prominent corner of Coal and First Street, this imposing structure consists of one high-ceilinged story at the front and two stories at the rear. The building is topped by a truncated, hipped, clay tile roof. On either side of the central portion is a tall, one-story wing. At the rear of the central portion is a flat-roofed wing, two stories tall. A Mediterranean Style tower projects from the southeast quadrant of the central section. Despite the stylistic differences of these four parts, the building appears to have been built as one piece.

The center section of the post office is dominated by a large Mediterranean style roof coupled with a rather tall Spanish Pueblo Revival Style corbeled portal. Entry to the structure is up two flights of stairs bordered by Mediterranean style balustrades. The stairs end at the portal which stretches across the front of the central section of the building north to south. The concrete columns of the portal have wood corbels and beams painted in several colors. The windows in this section and throughout the building are eight-lite double wood casements set below four or eight-lite wood awning windows. These are set in concrete frames. At the entry they have a continuous concrete sill. The main doors are set facing north and south in a similarly styled, square entry vestibule addition centered in the portal. These doors are decorative wood-paneled doors with vertical sidelites.

The tall, rectangular east and west wings are predominately Decorative Brick Commercial Style with governmental style shield details. The cornice has a protruding brick course with a decorative concrete bas-relief shield at the front edge. Below this is another protruding brick course. The windows in the wings are the same as in the central section without the continuous sill. A few windows in this section have wrought iron balconies and decorative concrete work on the lintels. On the bottom of the northwest corner of the north wing facing west is the cornerstone which reads:

William H. Woodin
Secretary of the Treasury
James A. Farley
Postmaster General
Lawrence W. Robert, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury
James A. Wetmore
Acting Supervising Architect
1933

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The rear section is a rectangular-shaped, flat-roofed, two-story building, also of the Decorative Brick Commercial style. The main feature of the rear is the loading dock which runs north to south. It is covered by a suspended copper overhang, and appears to have originally been an open porch. The windows above are eight lite wood casements, the windows in the porch area are six lite wood casements surrounded by a recessed brick infill in the original porch openings.

As typical of period civic monument buildings, the most spectacular portion of the interior is the lobby area. Although this area is not partitioned into offices, the remodeling was done sympathetically and all of the remaining original detailing is still visible. Missing are the original Indian motif murals from the lobby walls. The floor is a mosaic pattern of red clay tile. All the walls have a glazed tile wainscot in a abstract design. A glazed tile pedestal desk which was originally located in the center of the lobby has been removed. The windows are set deep into the walls and have glazed tile sills. Above the wainscot the walls are plastered. Still remaining are large carved eagles which take the place of interior corbels and lead the eye toward the coffer-like beam arrangement complete with brightly painted rope molding which lines the inside of each coffer-like space. The ceiling is approximately 15 feet high, the room perhaps 20x50 giving a sense of grandeur and authority appropriate to this type of civic structure.

The remainder of the building is currently used as offices. In these areas the floors are mostly intact, but the ceilings have all been lowered with acoustical tile. The basement remains functional with many original, large, wood paneled doors still in place.

The building is constructed of blond brick and is in excellent condition, a relatively unaltered example of civic architecture in Gallup.

8. Significance:

Area of significance architecture
 politics/government
Period of significance 1933
Criterion C architecture
Criterion A civic development

The 1933 U. S. Post office is architecturally significant for its excellent use of Mediterranean and Spanish Pueblo Revival styling and

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historically significant for its civic associations with the early growth of Gallup.

Historically, the post office, like post offices elsewhere, is significant for its role in the growth and development of Gallop. Although this building was not the first post office in Gallup, it served as the post office from 1933 to 1961. In a town as remote as Gallup, the post office is a vital service which links the town to the rest of the state and country. This structure remains a landmark of junction and period style.

Architecturally, this building is an excellent example of both the Mediterranean and Spanish Pueblo Revival Styles. This eclectic mixture of styles is harmonious despite its uniqueness the styles combined in this structure resulted in a governmental and monumental form which is significant for its rarity in Gallup.

There are no plans to renovate or alter this structure.

9. Major bibliographical References:
See continuation sheets
10. Geographical Data: The nominated property consists of the west 81/2' of Lot 5, and all of Lots 6-12, of Block 7 of the A&P Addition