United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

received APR 13 1987

date entered MAY 14 1987

1. Name

historic   Folsom Hotel

and or common Folsom Hotel

2. Location

street & number   SW corner Grand Avenue & Wall Street   N/A not for publication

city, town Folsom   N/A vicinity of   88419

state   New Mexico   code 035   county Union   code 059

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	_X_ private	_X_ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	N/A being considered	_X_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	_X_ other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name   Richard A. Jagoda

street & number   Box 330

city, town Folsom   N/A vicinity of   state NM 88419

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.   Union County Courthouse

street & number 200 Court Street

city, town   Clayton   state NM 88415

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title   New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties   has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes _X_ no

date July 1969   ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records New Mexico Historic Preservation Division

city, town Santa Fe   state NM 87503

7. Description

Summary Paragraph

The building is located on the southwest corner of Grand Avenue and Wall Street, one block north of the old railway depot. The measurements are 25 ft. wide by 50 ft. long occupying the north 50 ft. of Lot #1, Block 28 and has two stories with a flat roof.

The front facade is of rusticated regular cut local sandstone. The quoins of the front corners are smooth surfaced sandstone.

The first-story storefront is three continuous arched openings with smooth regular-cut stone relieving arches. The center arch has a four-light transom and double-leaf doors with full lights. The two side arches are quartered windows (lower part now boarded). Kick plates extend under the windows, beneath the the smooth stone slip sills.

The second-story (front facade) has two small, regularly-spaced arched windows with slip sills, double-hung 2/2 lights and stone eyebrow hoods. The side elevations have irregularly spaced small rectangular windows in a variety of sizes.

The rear of the building has two additions. A two-story frame addition with wood siding was built in the 1920s. Behind the 1920s addition is a single-story gable-roofed rock house apparently built about 1888 and attached to the main building by the 1920s frame addition. The main building and the two rear additions function as one building and are being nominated as a single unit.

Presently the building is undergoing repairs to ensure its structural soundness. The storefront openings have been boarded for security. A hand-dug, rock-lined well and a root cellar were found on the property. Work on a proposed septic tank has been stopped until those features can be investigated and protected.

8. Significance

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Summary Paragraph
This building is significant because it was the first permanent store in Folsom, a town created by the railroad's entry into northeastern New Mexico in the 1880s, and during the increase of the industry in the 1890s. The building meets National Register Criterion A because it exemplifies the growth and development of commercial enterprise in Folsom from 1888 until 1908. The building stands for a period when men and women invested their energy, time, and money to promote an emerging commerical center in a far north-eastern region of the state, that was destined, not unlike a prehistoric site, to be almost abandoned. (In 1984 Folsom's population was 67. In 1985 all of Union County with an area of 3,830 sq. miles had a population of 5,600.) The building also meets Criterion C as an example of substantial vernacular building in this remote area as a result of rapid developmental events, in this case a building surge caused by the arrival of the railroad. The building was used primarily as a general mercantile store until the 1920s when it was converted into a hotel. It functioned as a hotel until the 1960s. Since the 1960s it has been vacant. There is no verification that it was officially called the Drew and Phillips General Merchandise store as is suggested in the historic photo. Over the years it has been called the Folsom Hotel and the term connotes both historic and common name.

Primary period of significance   1888 to 1908
Secondary period of significance   1920s to 1960s

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Under one acre

Quadrangle name Folsom, NM

Quadrangle scale 7.5 min.

UTM References

A |1,3| |5,9,6,3,8,0| |4,0,7,7,9,8,0|
   Zone Easting   Northing

B |__| |__,__,__| |__,__,__|
   Zone Easting   Northing

C |__| |__,__,__| |__,__,__|

D |__| |__,__,__| |__,__,__|

E |__| |__,__,__| |__,__,__|

F |__| |__,__,__| |__,__,__|

G |__| |__,__,__| |__,__,__|

H |__| |__,__,__| |__,__,__|

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 1, Block 28

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title See continuation sheet

organization   date

street & number   telephone

city or town   state

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _Thom. W. rh_

title _State Historic Preservation Officer_   date 3-20-87

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<u>Historic Context</u>   In the popular lore of northeastern New Mexico, Folsom is most readily associated with the nearby Folsom Man Site, but Folsom really owed its existence to the railroad.   In 1888 The Denver and Fort Worth Railroad Company built south from Trinidad, Colorado, to meet the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway which was building north from Texas.   On March 14, 1888, the two lines met at Union Park, a few miles north of Folsom.

Cattle ranching had begun in the area in the mid-nineteenth century, some thirty years before the coming of the railroad, when the presence of the military in the Territory could protect settlers from hostile Indians.   The establishment of Forts Union, Bascom and Sumner drew Texas cattlemen to the area because of the need for supplies of fresh meat to feed the soldiers and their wards.

In the 1860s Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving trailed cattle across the area and in 1867 John Chism began driving cattle north to Colorado.   By the 1880s there were a number of large established cattle ranches around Folsom.   The profits from the range cattle industry were tremendous and ranchers pushed to have the railroad come through the area, which it did in 1888.   The combination of the large cattle ranches and the railroad assured, temporarily, Folsom's growth.

Folsom became an instant town.   By 1891 its population was 377 and by 1903 it was the second largest town in Union County with a population of 750.   During that time Folsom had the largest stockyards north and west of Fort Worth and became an important shipping and trade center.

<u>Folsom Hotel</u>   Prior to 1888 F. B. Drew had established one store at Capulin, three miles from Folsom and one at Cottonwood Plaza (now Los Alamos).   After the railroad was completed, he and other permanent residents moved the main townsite across the railroad tracks (from Ragtown, the railroad workers temporary townsite) and began building a town.

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That same year Drew and his partner J. D. Phillips purchased Lot 1 Block 28 in the commercial district, built the two-story rock building and opened their general merchandise store. By 1902 Drew and Phillips had sold the building and the mercantile business to J. P. O'Dell. The building continued to be used as a mercantile store under a variety of owners until sometime in the 1920s but its main prosperity lasted only until 1908.The Folsom Townsite Company had great plans for the town. A depot, restaurant, 22-room hotel, newspaper building, land office, and one-room log school were built. One of the largest resorts in the state was built in Folsom in 1890, a four-story, 150 room hotel. Unfortunately, it was a financial disaster and was torn down a few years after it was constructed.

In 1908 the Dry Cimarron caused the greatest flood in the history of the Folsom area that drowned seventeen people and wiped out most of the buildings in town. Drew's store was one that survived. Although Folsom remained an important shipping center, it never regained its former prestige. Ironically the flood that spelled Folsom's doom revealed the bison imbedded Paleo-Indian projectile points that extended man's history to about 8500 B.C.

In the 1920s the 22-room frame hotel burned. Between that time and 1932 M. H. Crabtree and his wife purchased the Folsom Hotel and began running it as a hotel. During the thirties and forties the hotel enjoyed a fairly brisk business from local teachers, itinerant workmen, railroad section hands, and ranchhands. Later, until it closed in the 1960s, the trade was primarily local residents who had moved away and returned to visit, and seasonal game hunters.

Architectural Significance   The building's heavy rough-cut massive surfacing, rhymthic arched first-floor windows and small second-floor eyebrow-hooded windows are small-scale rural vernacular interpretations of proto-typical Victorian styles, especially the Romanesque. Although the common perception of New Mexico architecture tends toward the Spanish Pueblo Revival style, much commercial architecture (and domestic building) in the eastern part of the state reflected styles brought by eastern immigrants. Especially along the railroad lines e.g. Raton, Springer, Las Vegas, Clayton, town building looked much as railroad towns did in Colorado, Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma. Very small towns, as Des Moines and Folsom, could only muster a few substantial two-story buildings with any pretense to stylistic trends. The Folsom Hotel was just such a building. Now classified a partial ghost town Folsom has only a half-dozen single-story storefronts along its main street (aptly named Grand Avenue). Of these remaining buildings, the Folsom Hotel is the most substantial.

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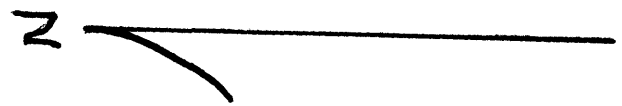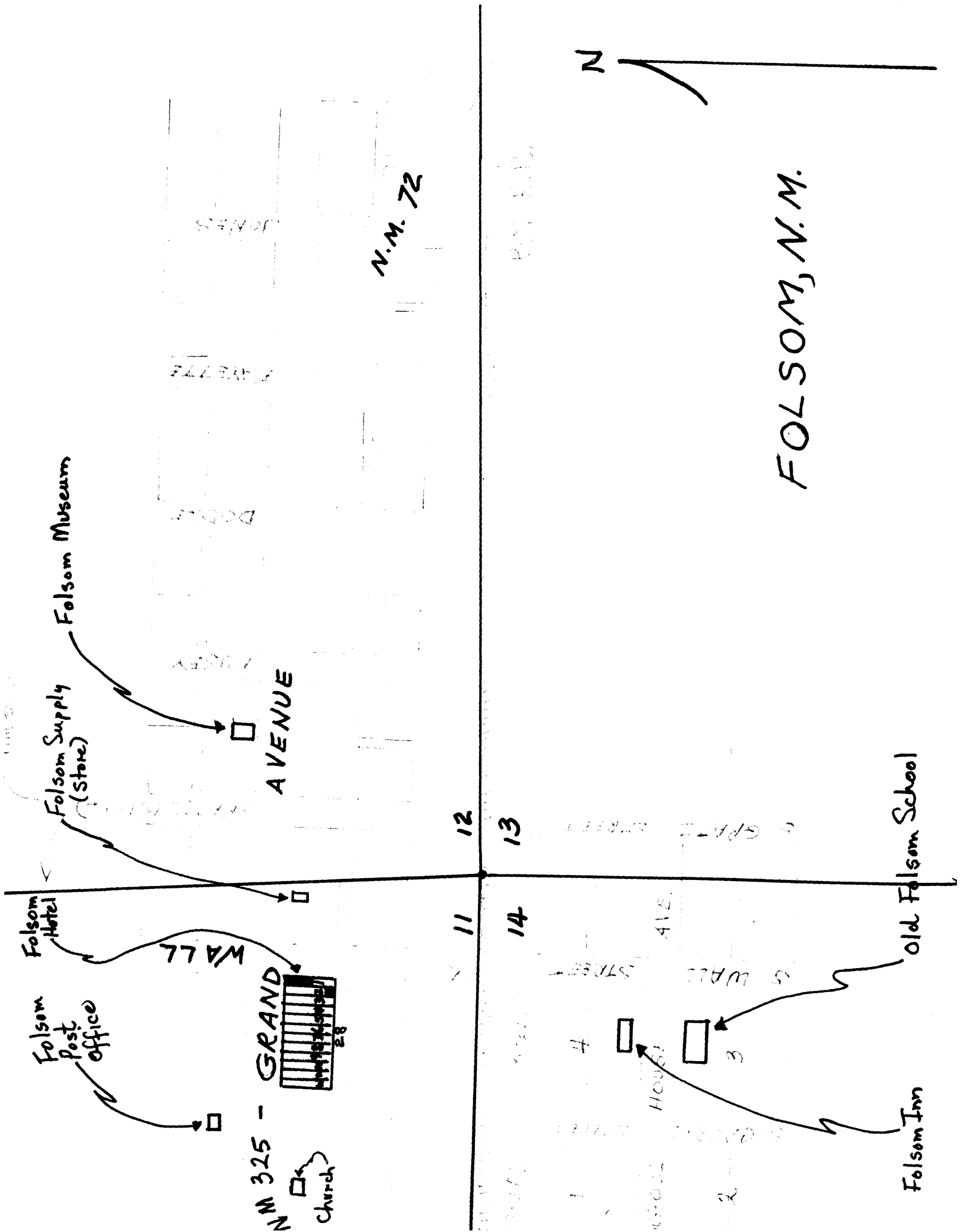
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11.   FORM PREPARED BY

Original form   Revisions/editing
Betty A. Griffin   Mary Ann Anders, Ph.D
1/1/87   3/20/87
Folsom Hotel   New Mexico Historic
Box 330   Preservation Division
Folsom, NM   228 East Palace Avenue, Room 101
                                           Santa Fe, NM

FOLSOM, N.M.

N.M. 72

Folsom Museum

Folsom Supply (Store)

AVENUE

Folsom Hotel

Folsom Post office

WALL

GRAND

NM 325 -

Church

old Folsom School

Folsom Inn

HOUSE

STREET

S WALL

11   12   13   14

3   4