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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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OCT 15 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 an 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 Blue Swallow Motel

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 815 E. Tucumcari Boulevard not for publication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, 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.)

Ann W. Hill SIHP 10-4-93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Historic Preservation Division, State of New Mexico
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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) _____

for Signature of the Keeper 11-22-93 Date of Action

Bella R. Savage

Blue Swallow Motel
Name of Property

Quay County, NM
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- 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 count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Hist. & Arch. Resources of Rt. 66 through NM

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Southwest Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls stucco
roof metal
other glass

Narrative Description

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

Blue Swallow Motel

Quay County, NM

Name of Property

County and State

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 all 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 age or 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 #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

transportation

architecture

Period of Significance

1942-1956

Significant Dates

1942

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

W. A. Huggins

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Blue Swallow Motel
Name of Property

Quay County, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	1	3
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6	1	6	9	4	0
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3	8	9	2	6	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David J. Kammer, Ph.D.

organization contract historian date August, 1993

street & number 521 Aliso Dr. NE telephone (505) 266-0586

city or town Albuquerque state NM zip code 87108

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018). Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 & 8 Page 1

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Quay County, New Mexico

7. Description

The Blue Swallow Motel consists of two one-story buildings. The motel portion has a metal shed roof, pink stucco walls over hollow tile bricks, and a concrete foundation. The spatial organization of the property includes the L-plan of the fourteen-unit motel and a discreet office and manager's residence, parts of which formerly served as a gas station, and a playground located within the grounds framed by the motel. The motel building's facade reflects a modest use of the Southwest Vernacular Style with its pink stucco walls decorated with shell designs and a stepped parapet. Garage units, some with wood overhead doors, are located between the sleeping units. Several of the metal casement windows and single panel wood doors have metal awnings.

The office and manager's residence has a flat asphalt roof with a wide overhang and large fixed windows in the front. Metal casement and aluminum sliding windows are located along side and rear walls as are two wood frame doors with large upper lights. The front door is a multi-light wood frame door.

The motel and office/residence front on what was Route 66, offering access to motorists both from the highway and from a side street. When the highway was widened to four lanes in 1951, the new sidewalk reached the motel's sign post. Much of the signage dates to the 1950s and includes a large vertical sign that rests on the office roof and extends to a post support, forming an arch canopy under which prospective clients can park. The parapet of the motel is outlined in neon with blue neon swallows periodically placed along the facade. The motel has had only a few minor alterations.

8. Statement of Significance

The Blue Swallow Motel is one of the best examples of a largely unaltered pre-war tourist court remaining along Route 66

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8, 9 & 10 Page 2

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Quay County, New Mexico

Significance (continued)

in New Mexico. It was begun prior to the outbreak of World War II and completed in early 1942. W.A. Huggins, a Tucumcari carpenter constructed the building for Ted Jones, a prominent eastern New Mexican rancher. When he and his wife died in a plane crash in the 1950s, Lillian Redman bought the motel and has owned and operated it since. The motel has been closely identified with Route 66 in several books and articles, and the motel and its owner have emerged as icons of Route 66 folklore. Because of this close association with early automobile tourism along Route 66, the property is eligible under Criterion A. The property also qualifies under Criterion C for the way in which its setting, location, design and materials reflect early tourist court construction in New Mexico. In particular, the garages, the spatial arrangement of the motel, office/residential and playground elements, and the continued use of early signage convey the historic significance of the property.

9. Bibliography

Redman, Lillian, owner. Interview with David Kammer, 11/14/91. NMSHPO.

Wallis, Michael. Route 66: The Mother Road. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 9-12 of Block 31 of the Aber Addition.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes only the portion of the lots on which the nominated property is situated.