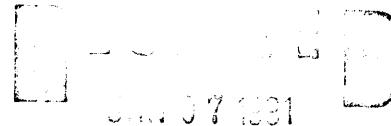


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fitch, James Gurden, House

other names/site number ID#306; SR Site #630

2. Location

street & number 311 McCutcheon Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Socorro

N/A vicinity

state New Mexico

code NM

county Socorro

code 053

zip code 87801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Domestic Architecture in Socorro, New Mexico, 1870-1912 listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Tom W. [Signature] SHPO

12-28-90

Signature of certifying official

Date

Antiquities Preservation Division

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)

Entered in the
National Register

[Signature]

2/20/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Other: Brick vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation not visible

walls brick

roof asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Fitch House is a one-story, brick dwelling with a side gable roof. A gabled, three-sided bay, with cut-away corners, projects from the main (south) facade somewhat off center to the west. This front gable is covered with decorative patterned shingles. East of the front-projecting bay, in the el that it creates, is a flat-roofed porch with four fluted Corinthian columns. Windows are segmental-arched with Italianate hoods in low relief. The house is set back from the street and a low stone wall runs along the front property line.

The Sanborn maps indicate that the house was enlarged during the Period of Significance. As drawn in 1893 there was a small square projection on the main (south) facade of the house without cutaway corners as well as a bay window on the east facade. Between 1898 and 1902, a bay of the present shape was added to the front projection and the house was enlarged to the east replacing the original, east-facing bay window. At this time the front porch was enlarged and presumably brought to its present appearance. Also in these years a room was added at the northeast corner of the rear of the building. Between 1902 and 1913, this room was enlarged to the west.

At a more recent date, a room constructed of wood panels with a metal window was added on the main facade west of the projecting front bay. The brick walls of the house have been painted white and the roof covered with asphalt shingles.

The house is in excellent condition and well conveys its historic associations.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Law
Politics/Government

Period of Significance

C: c. 1893
B: c. 1893-1933

Significant Dates

C: c. 1893
B: c. 1893-1933

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Fitch, James Gurden

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Architecturally, the Fitch house is an example of the brick dwellings which were built on and near McCutcheon Avenue in the 1880s and early 1890s using new materials and styles brought by the railroad and reflecting the prosperity of Socorro's mining boom. The Neo-Classical porch columns added by the original owner are an unusual touch for Socorro and perhaps derive from the Classical influence that followed the Columbian Exposition of 1893. Historically it is significant as the home of James Gurden Fitch, one of Socorro's leading professional men of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

History of the House

The earliest documentation of the house is its appearance on the 1893 Sanborn map. It is thought to have been built by Fitch shortly after his arrival in Socorro in 1888, (Conron and Lent, "Fitch House"). Between 1898 and 1902 Fitch enlarged the house as described in the Description section. It remained his home until his death in 1933.

James G. Fitch

James Gurden Fitch came to New Mexico in 1882 and first engaged in ranching and mining before returning to the legal profession for which he had been trained. He practiced law briefly in San Marcial and Aztec and then settled in Socorro where he remained for the rest of his life. In addition to his work as a lawyer, Fitch owned mining properties and was active in Democratic politics at the local and state levels. His contributions to the School of Mines were such that a building on the campus was named for him.

Fitch was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1856. After graduating from Western Reserve College in 1879, he studied law and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Ohio in 1881. The next year he moved to Denver, Colorado, and the year after to New Mexico, finally settling in Socorro in 1888.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	3	3	2	5	1	4	0	3	7	6	9	7	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The legal description of the property which includes the historic resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Corinne P. Sze date November 1, 1990
 organization Research Services of Santa Fe telephone (505) 983-5605
 street & number 1042 Stagecoach Road state NM zip code 87501
 city or town Santa Fe

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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As a lawyer, Fitch was one of the first New Mexicans of his profession to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States. He was active in the New Mexico Bar Association serving as its president in 1894-5.

In politics, he was a leader in the New Mexico Democratic Party. He represented the territory as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in St. Louis in 1904 and served as chairman of the Democratic Territorial Central Committee in 1908-1909. He was a delegate from Socorro County to the New Mexico Constitutional Convention in 1910.

As a businessman Fitch was one of the incorporators of the Socorro State Bank and a long-time member of its board of directors. After his law office burned down in 1914, he built a modern concrete office building, one of the first such buildings in the state, (Conron and Lent, "Fitch Building").

Fitch was a trustee of the School of Mines from 1893 until 1897 and again from 1909-1911. In 1937, four years after his death, the James G. Fitch Hall, a dormitory at the school, was dedicated to his memory.

Like many newcomers to New Mexico, Fitch was an active adherent of Masonry. He attained the 33rd degree of the Scottish Rite and was a past grand master of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico. He had the distinction of being the first grand master to visit all of the lodges in the territory.

Significance

Architecturally this building is an example of a brick home built on McCutcheon Avenue and illustrates an individualistic mixture of stylistic details that characterized the post-railroad era in Socorro. Historically it represents the contributions to Socorro of James G. Fitch, distinguished lawyer, businessman, civic and political leader. It is the only domestic building that has been identified with Fitch in Socorro. Although the 1914 Fitch Building, a Socorro business block, still stands, Fitch's residence best represents the totality of his career in Socorro. The Fitch House was placed on the State Register of Cultural Properties on March 31, 1978.

The Period of Significance for Criterion C is c. 1893, the approximate construction date, and for Criterion B, c. 1893-1933.

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Conron and Lent, Architects. "Fitch Building," Application for Registration, New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties, Form A (revised), 1978.

Conron and Lent, Architects. "Fitch House," Application for Registration, New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties, Form A (revised), 1978.

Reeve, Frank D. History of New Mexico, III. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, Inc., 1961.

Representative New Mexicans. Denver: C.S. Peterson, 1912.

Sanborn Maps, 1893, 1898, 1902, 1913, 1930.

Twitchell, Ralph Emerson. The Leading Facts of New Mexico History, V. Cedar Rapids, Iowa: The Torch Press, 1917.

1/7/91

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Fitch, ...

CODE
NUMBER 1-350-239

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

REAL PROPERTY LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A Tract of land in Socorro City Survey#337, In Section-21 of the Socorro Grant. Comprosing Lots 18,20 & 22 of the McCutcheon Add. to the City of Socorro N.M. and the land in the Rear of said lots Described as;Beginning at cor. No. 1 of said Survey#337 Whence the corner common to Sections 15,16,21 & 22 of the Socorro Grant. Bears N. 10° 54' E. 1985.8 feet Distance,Thence S. 85° 27' W. 75.2 feet to corner No. 2; Thence N. 4° 36' W. 161.5 feet to corner No. 3; Thence S. 87° 56' E. 3.1 feet to corner No. 4; Thence N. 0° 44' W. 67.9 Feet to corner No. 5; Thence N. 88° 18' E. 67.8 feet to corner No. 6; Thence S. 4° 36' E. 226.0 Feet to corner No. 1; the Place of Beginning, S $\frac{1}{2}$ in Fitch Estate County of Socorro, State of New Mexico.