

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Mesilla Park Elementary School
Other names/site number: Frank O. Papen Recreation Center
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 304 Bell Avenue
City or town: Las Cruces State: New Mexico County: Dofia Ana
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
X A ___ B X C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**
Dr. Jeff Pappas, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

2-23-14
Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education: school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: auditorium, outdoor recreation

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Concrete

Roof: Asphalt

Walls: Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, and style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Mesilla Park Elementary School is a large, sprawling, one-story school building located in the Mesilla Park neighborhood of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County in southern New Mexico. Designed by Henry Trost and built in 1907, the school is a Spanish Mission Revival-style building with decorative pediment above the main entrance. The brick building was covered with a hipped roof and included four classrooms. As the student population increased, a series of additions were added beginning in 1916 with two additions on the north and south ends to accommodate four additional classrooms and an auditorium on the rear (west) side of the building. In 1934, classroom additions were again added to the north and south ends of the school. In 1943, a new, larger auditorium, which seats 400 students, was built on the west end of the 1934 auditorium. Lastly, in 1963, a cafeteria was built on the southwest side of the roughly

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T-shaped building. The property also includes a stone wall along Linden Street and two stone benches, which were constructed by the graduating eight-grade class in 1939.

Narrative Description

Exterior Description

The Mesilla Park Elementary School is a sprawling elementary school building is bounded by Linden, Manso, Bell, and Orange avenues in the residential neighborhood of Mesilla Park of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County in southern New Mexico (photo 1). The Mesilla Park Elementary School was originally designed by Henry C. Trost and built in 1907. The one-story Spanish Mission Revival-style building featured a decorative pediment above the main entrance, yellow-brick walls, and a hip roof. The rectangular-shaped school featured four classrooms along a double-loaded corridor. Banks of sash windows bring natural light into the classrooms. Between 1916 and 1963, a series of additions were added to accommodate the increasing student population. The Trost design survives only in the center three bays of the main façade and the four-classroom plan (photos 2, 13-18).

The Mesilla Park Elementary School is roughly T-shaped, with its long axis oriented roughly north to south along Linden Avenue. The main block is constructed of red- and yellow-colored brick with a side-gabled roof and two hip-roofed additions at each end. The asphalt-shingled roof features exposed rafter ends. The symmetrical main façade features a center entrance flanked by four banks of sash windows. The projecting hip-roofed additions on the ends represent later additions. The original doors and sidelights have been replaced with modern steel doors, which are located within the original opening. The pediment above the entrance was partially rebuilt.

In 1916, W. J. Stevens of the Bascom-French Company designed three additions to serve as additional classrooms and an auditorium.¹ Two hip-roofed additions, both similar in design, were added to the north and south ends of the original building, each containing two classrooms (photo 2, far left and right). These wings were constructed of wood frame and clad in brick veneer. They measures 30-feet wide by 60-feet long and are illuminated by banks of five sash windows, which matched the windows on the original main block. The one-story brick auditorium, which was built at the rear of the building, formed a T-shaped plan. The auditorium is also constructed of wood frame and clad in brick veneer. It measures 50-feet by 50-feet and could accommodate 150 students.

In 1934, two more classroom additions were added to the north and south ends (photos 3-4, 12). Like the additions in 1916, these hip-roofed additions were both similar in design. Each addition was approximately 35-feet wide by 80-feet long and included two classrooms and a corridor. This addition included indoor plumbing with the addition of restrooms for girls and boys. Two

¹*El Paso Herald*, El Paso, Texas, 21 July 1916.

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banks of five windows are located on the north and south elevations. These wood-frame additions were covered with stucco.

In 1943, a new auditorium was added to the west end of the 1916 auditorium (photos 7-8). The new auditorium measures 50-feet wide and 80-feet long. The interior had hardwood floors and a stage for students to hold plays and other productions. The steeply pitched roof features exposed-rafter ends and brackets in the Craftsman style. Shed-roofed stoops on the north and south sides are also supported with brackets.

In 1963, the cafeteria, the last addition to the school, was constructed (photos 5-9). This addition included a modern cafeteria and kitchen on the southwest side of the school. The cafeteria addition measures 75-feet wide by 42-feet long. The cafeteria is built of concrete block with a shallow-pitched gable roof. Pilasters divide the north, south, and west facades into bays, some bays containing aluminum-famed jalousie windows. The east façade features a low, flat-roofed entrance wing on Bell Avenue.

The interior plan of the school features classrooms along a double-loaded corridor (photos 14-15). The wider cross-axial entrance hall included the principal's office, which has since been removed (photo 13). The four-classroom main block, built in 1907, includes historic fabric, such as, hardwood floors, plaster walls, beaded wainscoting, pictures rails, doors with transoms, windows, cast-iron radiators, and, in the classrooms, blackboards (photos 16-18). The original school bell is stored in the auditorium.

The 1934 addition of classrooms on the north and south ends of the building included cross-axial corridors (photo 19). The south corridor was extended to the south to provide access to the cafeteria addition. The auditoriums built on the west end in 1916 and 1943 formed a T-shaped plan. Little historic building material remains in the auditoriums (photo 20). The interior of the cafeteria is finished with concrete-block walls, linoleum-tile floors, and acoustic ceiling tiles (photos 21-22).

In circa 1939 the administration built an uncoursed-rubble wall across the front of the school along Linden Avenue (photo 23). The eight-grade graduating class in 1939, according to school tradition, gave a parting gift of two, uncoursed-rubble benches to the school. The benches, which are inscribed in cement with the students' names, are located along the front walk and are joined to the front wall (photos 24- 25).

The flat lot includes a grass front lawn with cedar and deciduous trees. The front steps were replaced with a concrete handicapped ramp. The flat rear lot, which is partly shaded by cedar and deciduous trees, includes a parking lot, basketball court, open field, playground equipment, and three pavilions, which were added in 2010 (photo 26). A concrete-and-tile sculpture was constructed after 1994.

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Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

The elementary school is counted as one contributing building.
The front wall is counted as one contributing structure.
The benches are counted as two contributing objects.

Three pavilions are counted as three nonhistoric structures.
The playground equipment is counted collectively as one nonhistoric structure.
The basketball court is counted as one noncontributing structure.
The rear parking lot is counted as one noncontributing structure.
The concrete-and-tile sculpture is counted as one noncontributing object.

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1907-1964

Significant Dates

1907—Four-classroom school constructed

1916—Addition of north and south classrooms

1934—Addition of north and south classroom and auditorium

1943—Addition of second auditorium

1963—Addition of cafeteria

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Trost, Henry C. (architect)

Stevens, W. J. (architect)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Mesilla Park Elementary School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under National Register Criterion A in the area of education because the school represents the efforts of the Mesilla Park neighborhood to provide an elementary education for its children from 1907 until 1964. The school, which taught students from

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kindergarten through eighth grade, closed in 1974. The school's importance to the community is reflected in its substantial brick construction and in the numerous additions to the building constructed between 1916 and 1963. The Mesilla Park Elementary School is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture because it follows the established pattern in New Mexico of adding additional classrooms to the existing school building in order to serve the increasing population of students.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

In the early 20th century, Mesilla Park was mostly agricultural land and the Mesilla Valley flourished with a variety of agricultural crops until the area was subject to a series of floods and droughts. In 1903, the Bureau of Reclamation proposed the building of Elephant Butte Dam to manage water allotment. Completed in 1916, the new dam allowed farmers to switch from cotton to vegetables, pecans, and chiles. W. J. Stahmann was among the most successful Mesilla Valley farmers. In 1926, he bought 2,900 acres in Mesilla and, in 1932, purchased another 1,100 acres. His pecan empire of 4,000 acres included orchards, a processing plant, store, health clinic, church, and 150 houses for his workers.

The area continued to grow with the establishment of the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts in Las Cruces in 1888. Now called New Mexico State University, the school brought professors and their families to nearby Mesilla Park. By this time, the town had a railroad station, hotel, shops, and a commercial downtown. The area's burgeoning population provided a sufficient tax base to support the construction of a new school. The original Mesilla Park Elementary School was a one-room adobe building on Oak Street. Constructed in 1901, the school taught approximately 25 students.

The New School

Reverend Hunter Lewis, pastor at near nearby St. James Episcopal Church, believed that Mesilla Park needed a modern and up-to-date school to serve the children of the many university professors who lived in the community. In 1906, he taught for the four-month term and campaigned for the new school, writing, "The school was needed [as] Las Cruces is too far away down a rough and rutted road."² When the enrollment rose to 50, he helped secure funds for a four-room classroom building.³

The new Mesilla Park Elementary School was designed by architect Henry C. Trost of the El Paso firm Trost and Trost. Built in 1907, the Spanish Mission Revival-style school was a brick landmark that stood in sharp contrast to its rural setting among adobe houses.⁴ As the student

² Ibid., 51.

³ Ibid., 51.

⁴ The Oak Street school was demolished in circa 1911.

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population increased a series of additions were added beginning in 1916 with four additional classrooms and an auditorium. In 1934, two more classrooms were added and in 1943, a new, larger auditorium, which seats 400 students, was constructed.

Mesilla Park Elementary School, with its large auditorium, hosted community social functions. In October 1908, the local Presbyterian choir practiced at Mesilla Park Elementary School.⁵ In 1909, Lillian Bruce won a Demorest contest for her elocution skills in reciting a speech supporting the principles of the temperance movement.⁶ Between 1910 and 1911, meetings on the “Good Roads Movement” were held at the school to improve travel between Mesilla Park and Las Cruces. In 1940, Mesilla Park Elementary hosted Naturalist speaker, Charles Bowman Hutchins.⁷ Beginning in the 1940s, the school provided space for community meetings, voting, and recreational activities.

Race and Ethnicity

Mesilla Park in the early 20th century was an ethnically mixed neighborhood with both Anglos and Hispanics.⁸ Hispanics could attend any school, but often chose schools with mostly Hispanic children. Some Hispanic parents sent their children to Mesilla Park Elementary School, instructing them to “not speak Spanish on the playground there.”⁹ Former student Dorothy Wray recalls, “I think most friends were with Anglos and Anglos and Hispanics with Hispanics.”¹⁰ Others remember Anglos and Hispanics playing together. Merle Osborn remembers, “we just all kicked around the soccer ball, or whatever.”¹¹ Some Hispanic parents preferred to send their children to school in the Tortugas community, south of Mesilla Park, where they attended school with Native-American children.

African-American children in New Mexico were sometimes barred from attending school with Anglo and Hispanic children. New Mexico did not embrace statewide racial segregation, although local school districts were permitted to adopt Jim Crow laws that required black

⁵ “Scratch Pad”, *The Round Up*, (New Mexico State University, 1908): 4.

⁶ “Demorest Contest in Park School House,” *The Round Up* (New Mexico State University, 1909): 4; and “Demorest Contest Prohibition Prize Medal.” <http://www.hal.state.nm.us/mhc/museum/explore/museums/hismus/special/memory/belong/prohibit.html>. Accessed July 22, 2014.

⁷ “Naturalist Will Lecture Here Friday,” *The Round Up*. (New Mexico State University, 1940): 2.

⁸ Personal conversations with Clarence Fielder, Chair of Phillips Chapel Steward and Trustee Boards and local historian of the Las Cruces African American community, May 12th, 2013.

⁹ Personal conversation with Stuart Meerschidt, resident of Mesilla Park and former student of Mesilla Park Elementary School.

¹⁰ Personal communication with Dorothy Wray former student of Mesilla Park Elementary School. January 29, 2014.

¹¹ Personal communication with Merle Osborn former student of Mesilla Park Elementary School. February 8, 2014.

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children to attend separate schools.¹² In 1925, the state passed legislation regarding school segregation. According to the Laws of the State of New Mexico, Section 1201:

... Provided that where, in the opinion of the County School Board or Municipal School Board and on the approval of said opinion by the State Board of Education, it is for the best advantage and interest of the school that separate rooms be provided for the teaching of pupils of African descent, and said rooms are so provided, such pupils may not be admitted to school rooms occupied by pupils of Caucasian or other descent. Provided further, that such rooms set aside for the teaching of such pupils of African descent shall be as good and as well-kept as those used by pupils of Caucasian or other descent, and teaching therein shall be as efficient. Provided further, that pupils of Caucasian or other descent may not be admitted to the school rooms so provided for those of African descent.¹³

Only schools in the southern part of the state were segregated during the 1920s. This included schools Hobbs, Alamogordo, and Las Cruces.¹⁴ The Las Cruces School District, which included Mesilla Park Elementary School, voted to racially segregate its schools in 1924. Thirty to 35-African-American children were removed from Central Elementary School to receive educational instruction in Phillips Chapel CME Church, where they attended school until 1934, when Booker T. Washington School was built on Solano Street. The small adobe school served elementary and secondary educational needs for African-American children until integration occurred in 1954. This included the few African-American children who resided in Mesilla Park.¹⁵ Las Cruces High School, which was desegregated in 1955, included two black boys in its senior class.¹⁶ Clarence Fielder, an African-American professor, recalls that in 1955, he was permitted to teach at the previously all-white Court Junior High.¹⁷

Mesilla Park after the Second World War

During the 1940s and 1950s, Mesilla Park grew dramatically because of jobs that supported the war effort. In 1941, Army Air Base, Alamogordo was established, later called White Sands Missile Range, which brought hundreds of soldiers to southern New Mexico. After the war, the

¹² Terry Moody and Clarence Fielder, "African-American Experience in Southern New Mexico," New Mexico History.org. <http://newmexicohistory.org/people/african-american-experience-in-southern-new-mexico>. Accessed October 25, 2014.

¹³ Chacon, Soledad C. Secretary of State (prepared by) Laws of New Mexico. Albuquerque, NM: Valient Printing. (1925) as cited in Terry Moody, *Phillips Chapel CME Church*, (State Register of Historic Places, 2003): 15.

¹⁴ Soledad C. Chacon, Secretary of State. *Laws of New Mexico*. (Albuquerque, Valliant Printing Co, 1925): 109.

¹⁵ Personal conversations with Clarence Fielder, Chair of Phillips Chapel Steward and Trustee Boards and local historian of the Las Cruces African American community, July 16, 2013.

¹⁶ Personal conversation with Norma Harvey, resident of Las Cruces New Mexico and former student at Las Cruces High School.

¹⁷ Personal conversations with Clarence Fielder, Chair of Phillips Chapel Steward and Trustee Boards and local historian of the Las Cruces African American community, September 6, 2014.

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G.I. Bill enabled returning soldiers to enter college, resulting in the expansion of New Mexico State University and the creation of education-related jobs. Scientists and military personnel flooded Las Cruces neighborhoods, such as Mesilla Park.

By 1945, the increased student population required the construction of barrack-style classrooms for overflow students at Mesilla Park.¹⁸ These barrack-style classrooms were destroyed by fire in the 1960s. In 1963, a modern cafeteria was added to the Mesilla Park Elementary School so students would not have to leave the school grounds for lunch.

The school continued to provide elementary education to Mesilla Park students until it closed in 1974. During mid 1970s and 1980s, the building was operated by Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department as a part-time recreation center. After major renovations in the 1990s, it opened as a full-time recreation and senior center. In 2012, the building was dedicated as the Frank O'Brien Papan Recreation Center, named for prominent local businessman and state senator. The building serves as a recreation center and provides meals for senior citizens.

Mesilla Park and Architecture

The rise in population at Mesilla Park follows an established trend in school development in which classroom wings were added to existing school buildings to relieve increasing student population. As identified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic and Architectural Resources of the Santa Fe, New Mexico Public Schools," the practice of adding incremental additions began in the 1920s. "Generally these plans began with the construction of a single classroom wing emanating from a core area that housed administrative offices, and often an all-purpose gymnasium/auditorium behind the main entry." Beginning in the late 1920s examples of school design's that included incremental growth appeared in the periodical *Nation's Schools*. The Gormley School in Santa Fe, for example, added six additional classrooms in 1928 in response to increasing enrollment figures. As stated in the MPDF, "These plans were particularly attractive to school boards with constrained budgets because the incremental additions were generally easier to finance."

The Mesilla Park Elementary School is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture because it follows the established pattern in New Mexico of adding additional classrooms to the existing school building. Though the original 1907 Trost and Trost design of Mesilla Park exists only in the plan, the school is representative of the New Mexico pattern of growth in schools because, as enrollment increased at Mesilla Park, four additional classrooms, two auditoriums, and a cafeteria were added incrementally between 1916 and 1963.

¹⁸ Personal conversation with Janet Clements, Chair of Mesilla Park Revitalization Committee.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Clements, Janet. Interview with Francis Cochran. Las Cruces, New Mexico, April 16, 2013.
- Delgado, Dora. Interview with Francis Cochran. Las Cruces, New Mexico, February 28, 2014.
- Engelbrecht, L. C., and J. M. F. Engelbrecht. *Henry C. Trost, architect of the Southwest*. El Paso, Texas: El Paso Public Library Association, 1981.
- Fielder, Clarence. Interview with Francis Cochran. Las Cruces, New Mexico, July 7, 2013.
- Harvey, Norma. Interview with Francis Cochran. Las Cruces, New Mexico, September 6, 2014.
- Lewis, N. "The Lungers and their Legacy." *El Palacio* (November, 1, 2008).
<http://www.elpalacio.org/placeseries/winter08lungers.pdf>
- Levinson, B. A. *Schooling the Symbolic Animal: Social and Cultural Dimensions of Education*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2000.
- Martin, Eric. Interview with Francis Cochran. Las Cruces, New Mexico, July 31, 2013.
- McFie, M. E. *A History of the Mesilla Valley~1903*. Las Cruces, New Mexico: Yucca Tree Press, 2005.
- Meerschidt, Stuart. Interview with Francis Cochran. Las Cruces, New Mexico, April 20, 2013.
- Osborn, Merle. Interview with Francis Cochran. Las Cruces, New Mexico, February 8, 2014.
- Priestley, L. *Journey of faith* (Second ed.). Las Cruces, New Mexico: Arroyo Press, 1993.
- New Mexico: The Tourist Shrine*, 1882.
- El Paso Herald*. El Paso, Texas, 1916.
- Wray, Dorothy. Interview with Francis Cochran. Las Cruces, New Mexico, January 29, 2014.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.40 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 32.274742 | Longitude: -106.770394 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic district boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, which is drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The National Register boundary follows the current legal boundary and includes all of the property historically associated with the Mesilla Park Elementary School.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Francis Cochran (author); Dr. Beth O'Leary (advisor)
organization: New Mexico State University Department of Anthropology
street & number: 5591 Boxwood Lane
city or town: Las Cruces state: NM zip code: 88012
E-mail: fcochran21@gmail.com
telephone: 865-771-1261
date: July 22, 2014

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State Historic Preservation Office

Name/Title: Steven Moffson/State and National Register Coordinator
Organization: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
Street and Number: 407 Galisteo Street, Suite 238
City: Santa Fe State: NM Zip Code: 87501
Telephone: 505-476-0444
E-mail: steven.moffson@state.nm.us

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph. Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo Log

Name of Property: Mesilla Park Elementary School

City or Vicinity: Las Cruces

County: Dona Ana State: New Mexico

Photographer: Francis Cochran

Date Photographed: May 5, 2014

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- Photo 1 of 26. Main (west) façade, photographer facing west.
- Photo 2 of 26. Main elevation, detail, photographer facing southwest.
- Photo 3 of 26. South and west facades, photographer facing northwest.
- Photo 4 of 26. South façade, photographer facing northwest.
- Photo 5 of 26. South facades of cafeteria (left) and classroom addition, 1934 (right) on Bell Avenue, photographer facing west.
- Photo 6 of 26. Cafeteria entrance on Bell Avenue, photographer facing west.
- Photo 7 of 26. Auditorium, 1943 (left) and cafeteria (right), photographer facing northeast.
- Photo 8 of 26. Rear elevation with classroom wing, 1934 (left), auditorium (center), and cafeteria (right), photographer facing northeast.
- Photo 9 of 26. Auditorium (left), classroom block (center), and cafeteria (right), photographer facing northeast.
- Photo 10 of 26. Auditorium, 1934 (left) and classroom block (right), photographer facing north.
- Photo 11 of 26. Classroom block (left), auditorium (center), and pavilion (right), photographer facing southeast.
- Photo 12 of 26. Classroom wing, 1934, photographer facing southeast.
- Photo 13 of 26. Interior, entrance hall, photographer facing south.
- Photo 14 of 26. Interior, main corridor, photographer facing northwest.
- Photo 15 of 26. Interior, main corridor, photographer facing southeast.
- Photo 16 of 26. Interior, northeast classroom, 1907, photographer facing north.
- Photo 17 of 26. Interior, northeast classroom, 1916, photographer facing south.
- Photo 18 of 26. Interior, southeast classroom, 1916, photographer facing south.
- Photo 19 of 26. Interior, north cross-axial corridor, 1934, photographer facing southwest.

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Photo 20 of 26. Interior, auditorium, 1943, photographer facing west.

Photo 21 of 26. Interior, cafeteria, photographer facing east.

Photo 22 of 26. Interior, cafeteria (game room), photographer facing east.

Photo 23 of 26. Front lawn with uncoursed-rubble wall, photographer facing northwest.

Photo 24 of 26. South bench, photographer facing southwest.

Photo 25 of 26. South bench, detail, photographer facing southeast.

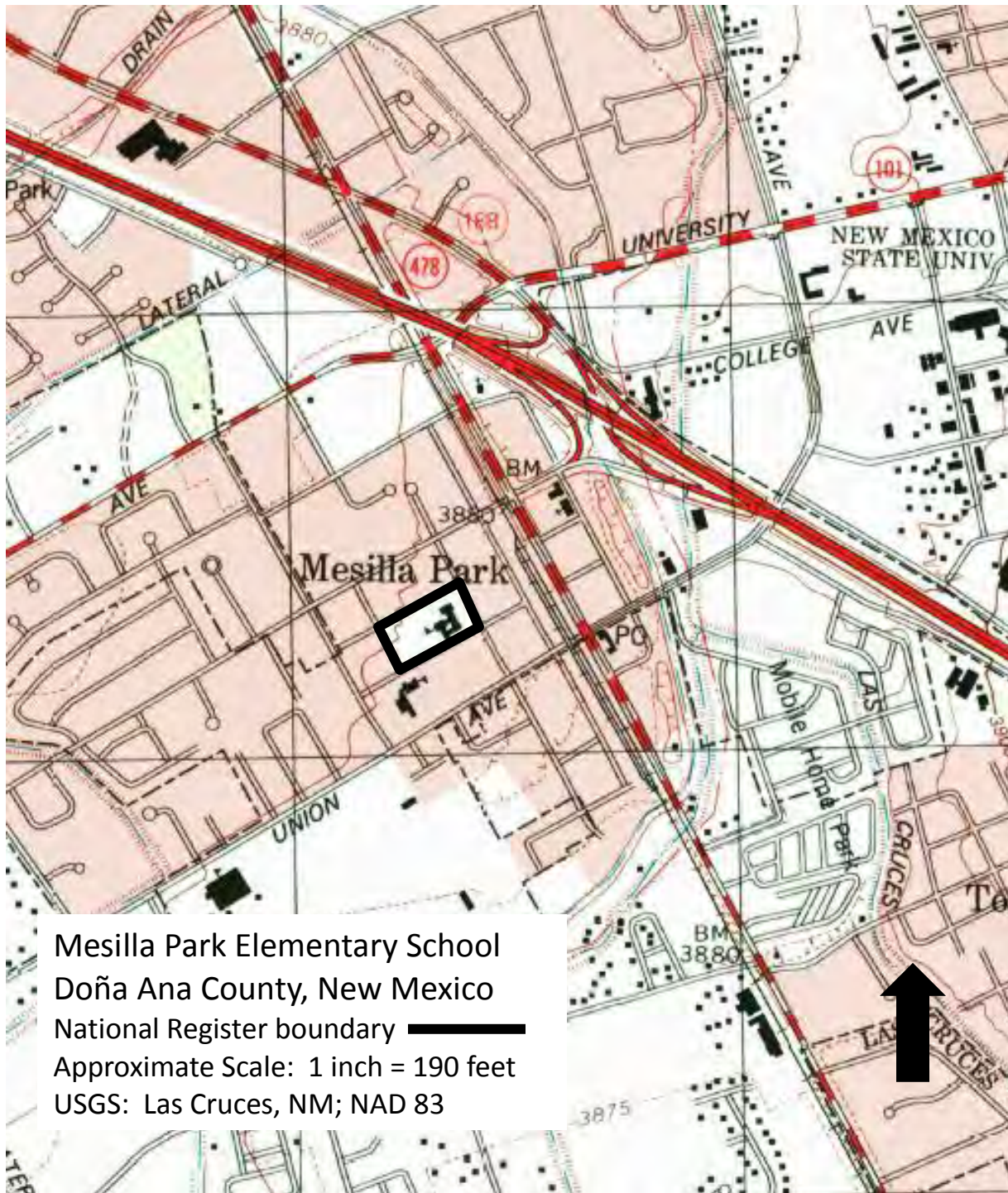
Photo 26 of 26. Playground, photographer facing south.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Mesilla Park Elementary School
Name of Property

Doña Ana, New Mexico
County and State



Mesilla Park Elementary School
Doña Ana County, New Mexico
National Register boundary **—————**
Approximate Scale: 1 inch = 190 feet
USGS: Las Cruces, NM; NAD 83

Mesilla Park Elementary School
Name of Property

Doña Ana, New Mexico
County and State

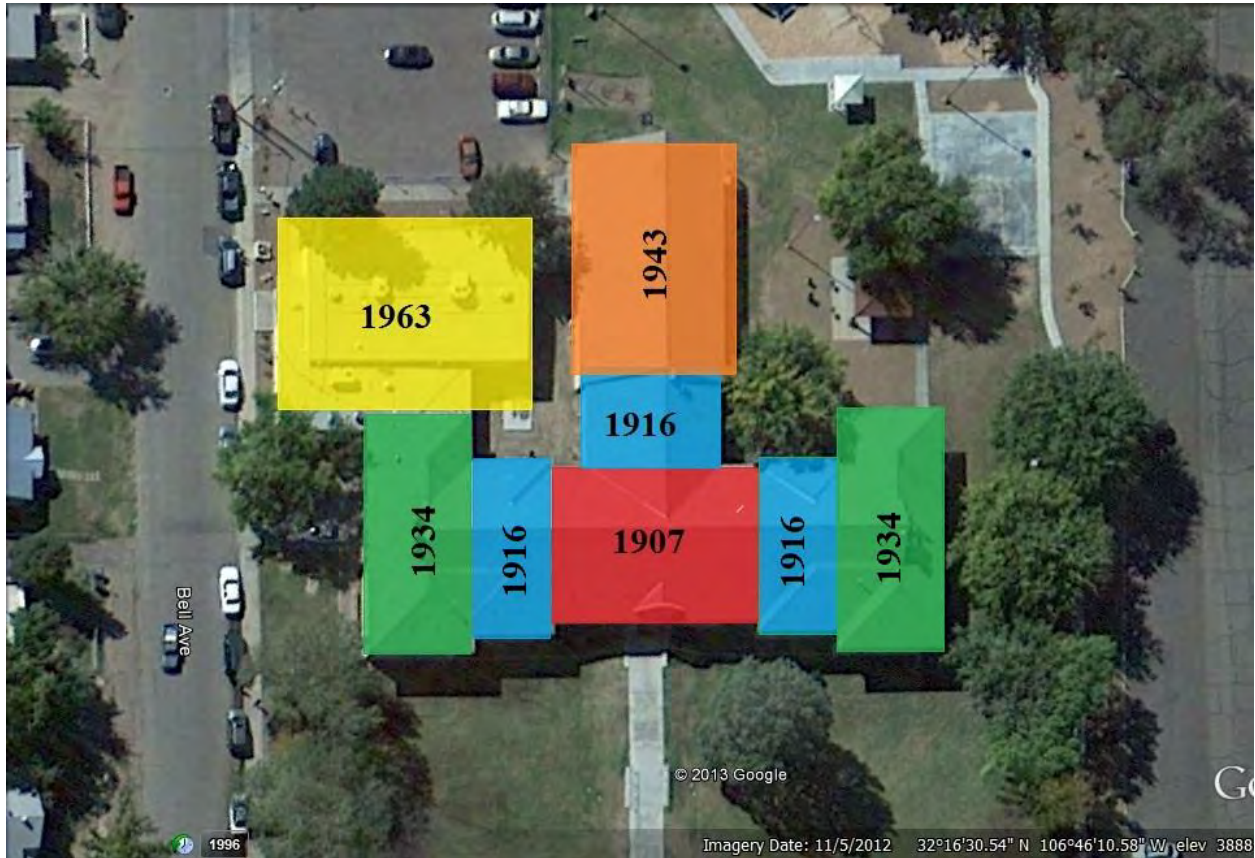


Mesilla Park Elementary School
Doña Ana County, New Mexico
National Register boundary ———
Approximate Scale: 1 inch = 335 feet



Mesilla Park Elementary School
Name of Property

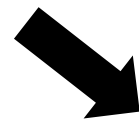
Doña Ana, New Mexico
County and State



Mesilla Park Elementary School
Doña Ana County, New Mexico

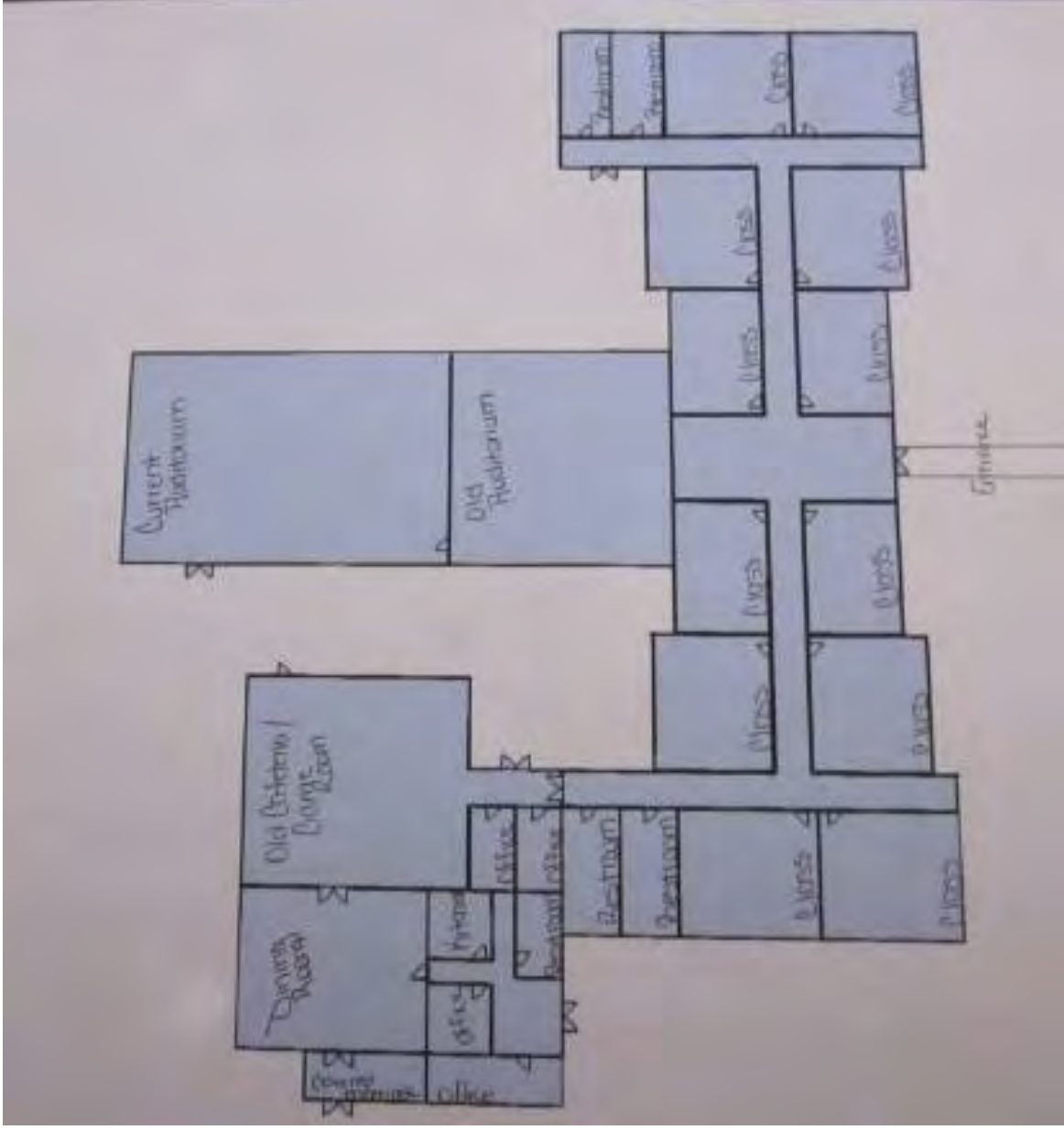
No Scale

Drawing by Francis Cochran



Mesilla Park Elementary School
Name of Property

Doña Ana, New Mexico
County and State



Mesilla Park Elementary School
Doña Ana County, New Mexico

Floor Plan

No Scale

Drawing by Francis Cochran



Mesilla Park Elementary School
Name of Property

Doña Ana, New Mexico
County and State

Select Photos



Photo 1 of 26. Main (west) façade, photographer facing west.

Mesilla Park Elementary School
Name of Property

Doña Ana, New Mexico
County and State



Photo 2 of 26. Main elevation, detail, photographer facing southwest.

Mesilla Park Elementary School
Name of Property

Doña Ana, New Mexico
County and State



Photo 6 of 26. Cafeteria entrance on Bell Avenue, photographer facing west.

Mesilla Park Elementary School
Name of Property

Doña Ana, New Mexico
County and State



Photo 8 of 26. Rear elevation with classroom wing, 1934 (left), auditorium (center), and cafeteria (right), photographer facing northeast.

Mesilla Park Elementary School
Name of Property

Doña Ana, New Mexico
County and State



Photo 13 of 26. Interior, entrance hall, photographer facing south.

Mesilla Park Elementary School
Name of Property

Doña Ana, New Mexico
County and State



Photo 17 of 26. Interior, northeast classroom, 1916, photographer facing south.

Mesilla Park Elementary School
Name of Property

Doña Ana, New Mexico
County and State



Photo 20 of 26. Interior, auditorium, 1943, photographer facing west.

Mesilla Park Elementary School
Name of Property

Doña Ana, New Mexico
County and State



Photo 23 of 26. Front lawn with uncoursed-rubble wall, photographer facing northwest.





FRANK O'BRIEN
PAPER
COMMUNITY CENTER







304
W Bell

FRANK O'BRIEN PAPER
COMMUNITY CENTER















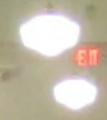


RECYCLE
Grocery Bags Here
RECYCLE
for Grocery
Bags Here
Trex





EXIT



EXIT





Recreation Office
Rooms 1-6
Restrooms
Multi-Purpose Room
Auditorium
←

FIRE



















People
Dale Henry
North of 1939

William Baker
Clyde Bunker
Gerritt Baker
Class of 1939
Delevin B...



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mesilla Park Elementary School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW MEXICO, Dona Ana

DATE RECEIVED: 1/09/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/06/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/23/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/24/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000039

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2-23-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION**

Susana Martinez
Governor

BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING
407 GALISTEO STREET, SUITE 236
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
PHONE (505) 827-6320 FAX (505) 827-6338



January 5, 2015

J. Paul Loether
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W. 8th floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Mesilla Park Elementary School in Mesilla Park, Doña Ana County, New Mexico to the National Register of Historic Places.

- Disk of National Register of Historic Places nomination form and maps as a pdf
- Disk with digital photo images
- Physical signature page
- Sketch map(s)/attachment(s)
- Correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do do not constitute a majority of property owners.
- Special considerations:

Sincerely,


Steven Moffson
State and National Register Coordinator

Enclosures