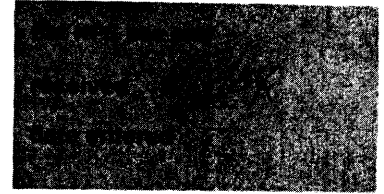


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 1, 2, 4, 7

Page 1

Eddy County, Artesia
Artificial Stone Houses of Artesia Thematic Group

1. Name: Atkeson, Willie D., House (Artificial Stone Houses of Artesia Thematic Group)
2. Location: 303 W. Grand Avenue
4. Owner: Fulton O. Conner
P.O. Box 1301
Artesia, New Mexico 88210
7. Description: The Willie D. Atkeson House is a one-and-a-half story, hipped roofed, artificial stone house with exceptional decorative use of cast concrete blocks reflecting the Queen Anne Style.

The house is square in plan with porches inset under the roof in the northeast and southeast corners. The porches contain round arched arcades composed of small smooth faced concrete blocks the size and shape of bricks. The "bricks" are used in an open-work pattern as a rail guard between the arches. The arches are supported by concrete "brick" piers which have large, flat concrete impost blocks. The "bricks" forming the edges of the piers and arches are rounded. Metal rods, possibly put in place at a later date, help support the arches. To lighten the load on the arches, the wall above them to the roofline is composed of wooden "fish scale" shingles. The arches of the rear porch have been enclosed, but the structural integrity of the arches has not been altered.

All windows and doors are segmental arched with lintels composed of the concrete "bricks" set on end. Window sills, which project outward from the wall surfaces, are constructed of the same "bricks" with their upper sides rounded. The "bricks" were also used in the construction of a tall exterior chimney on the west side of the house.

The windows contain the original wooden double-hung windows. Some are multi-paned in diamond patterns.

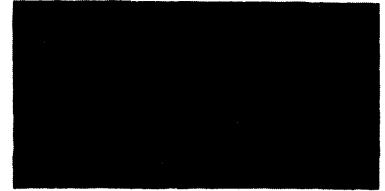
The walls of the house are composed of "rock face" artificial stone. Each block is moulded to appear as two equal-sized, square "rock face" blocks of stone, giving an especially repetitious regularity to the texture of the walls. The corners of the house are constructed of the cast concrete "bricks," with those meeting at the corner being rounded. They are laid to join the artificial stone blocks in a pattern that simulates quoins but creates a reversal of the usual contrasting rustication textures.

The color of the "rock face" blocks is a cement-grey and that of the "bricks" a slightly brownish-grey. The mortar joints are colored a dark pink, accentuating the active surface texture of the entire house.

The hipped roof, now covered with asbestos shingles, upturns its pitch at the eaves, as do the dormer roofs. There is a large dormer at the front and rear of the house, and two small dormers each on the east and west sides. The dormers are sided with "fish scale" shingles and inset with double-hung windows.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7, 8, 10

Page 2

Eddy County, Artesia
Artificial Stone Houses of Artesia Thematic Group

Atkeson, Willie D., House (Artificial Stone Houses of Artesia Thematic Group)

Behind the rear southwest corner of the house is a small original service building, square in shape, built of the same materials as the house, and having the same decorative treatment. It also has a similar hipped roof. It is an associated, contributing building. A patio overhang covering with wrought iron supports was recently installed between this building and the rear of the house. At the rear of the lot is a non-contributing garage of recent construction. A small garden screen wall of concrete block has been added to the east side of the house. None of the recent additions at the rear of the property have altered the structural integrity of the house and service building or detract from their character as viewed from the front of the property.

In front of the house, between the concrete sidewalk and the street, are round iron horse ties embedded in a large concrete block.

Both the house and small service building are in good condition.

8. Significance: The Willie D. Atkeson House is significant as a fine example of the vernacular residential types built of artificial stone in Artesia soon after the founding of the town. It exhibits exceptional application of the folk design and decoration found in the artificial stone houses of Artesia, echoing the Queen Anne Style.

The builder of the house, Willie D. Atkeson, acquired the property in 1904 from J. Mack Smith, who was one of three men who laid out the original Artesia Townsite, and John R. Blair who laid out the Blair Addition to the townsite (in which this property is located). Willie D. Atkeson (1868-1956) was an attorney and a prominent member of the community. He owned the house until 1952.

Atkeson had the house built in 1904. Harold Naylor, son of the building contractor James Henry Naylor, believes that his father constructed this house. James Henry Naylor is listed in the 1905 City Directory as a partner in the firm of Bethel and Naylor, Contractors and Builders. Naylor was a carpenter who came to New Mexico in the late 1800s from Missouri by way of Texas. From Roswell he brought a concrete block machine and established himself in the "block business" in Artesia at the time of the founding of the town.

10. Geographical Data: The nominated property consists of the northeast quarter of Block 5 of the Blair Addition.

Quadrangle name: Artesia
Quadrangle scale: 7.5 minute

UTM References:

Zone 13 Easting 556350 Northing 3633380