United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received NOV 2 9 1983 date entered

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

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and/or common	same						
2. Loca	ation						
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city, town Alb	ouquerque		vicinity of				
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3. Clas	sification	<u> </u>		100.00			
Category districtX building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisitio in process being consider N/A	n Accessi _X yes:	ccupied k in progress	Present Use agricultur commerc education entertainr governme industrial military	re ial nal ment ent	museum park private re religious scientific transport	;
4. Own	er of Pro	perty				units wi	
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courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Bernalillo	County T	ax Assessor			
street & number	505 Centr	al NW					
city, town Al	buquerque				state	New Mex	ico
6. Repi	resentatio	on in Ex	isting	Surveys			
titleHistoric	: Landmarks S	urvey of	has this pro	perty been determ	ined eligil	ble? yes	3 <u>x</u> no
date June, 1	.979;June, 198			federal _	state	county	_X_local
	urvey records Plani	ning & Rede	evelopment	Division,	Develo	nity & Ec opment De ew Mexico	pt.

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X original site	
good _x_ fair	ruins	_X_ altered	moved date _	
_x fair	unexposed	(slightly)		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

The Eller Apartment block (built 1922) is a two-story red brick C-shaped building located at the western edge of downtown Albuquerque just south of Central Avenue, the city's main street. To the south and west are small houses and more recent apartments. Designed on a north-south axis, the building's symmetrical front facade faces east toward the business district. The front is divided into three bays separated by screened wood porches; the bays are topped by a flat parapet broken by a peaked brick gable above each of the three main entrances. The building's west facade, which is equally symmetrical, is a row of narrow two-story frame back entry porches projecting from the back wall of the center section of the building.

NPS Form 10-900-a (7-81)

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Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

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UMB NU. 1U44-UU10 EXP. 12/31/84

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Decorative accents on the main facade are few and effective. corbel tops the front wall of each bay highlighting the juncture of the parapet and the building wall. A simple white medallion bearing the inscription "Eller" is centered over the entrance to the central This use of contrasting white elements is continued in the cement sills and lintels at the windows and in the cap on the brick stair The woodwork on the porches, balconies and hoods over the north and south front entry doors is also white. The small balconies front the four double French doors which are placed on each story on either side of the front entry. The balcony railings are diagonally crossed boards which provide a striking visual accent to the ensemble.

Doors and windows on the building are original and predominantly of one type. Most of the windows are paired 1/1 wood sash; narrow 1/1 wood windows flank the French doors and small wood four-light windows are placed on either side of the north and south front doors. doors and those connecting the apartments with the screened porches are solid dark wood with a window on the upper half. This window is divided by four muntins, the horizontal muntins placed near the top and bottom of The center door is also solid wood with a narrow transom the glass. above. Every front entrance is reached by a short series of concrete steps with capped solid brick railings.

The west facade - the "inside" of the C - was designed as a service area with frame screened entry porches and glassed-in sleeping porches. The entry to the basement apartment, formerly tenant washrooms, is located in the northeast corner of the rear.

Besides this basement apartment there are twelve apartments in the building, the number for which it was designed. All have sleeping porches and eight have front screened porches. The four central apartments each have a French door opening to the small balconies mentioned above. All the apartments retain their original cabinetry, woodwork and room divisions. The south foyer has been altered and the southernmost first story screened porch has been glassed in. Otherwise, nothing else on the building has been altered.

8. Significance

Period

1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899	archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture x architecture art commerce communications	conservation conservation economics education engineering	ning landscape architectur law literature military music lement philosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1922	Builder/Architect	Arch.: Henry C. Tros	t;Bldr: E.J.Marcha

Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Eller Apartment building is significant in the state; it is, as far as we know, the only remaining apartment building in New Mexico designed by Henry C. Trost, the best known architect in the southwest during the first quarter of the 20th century. Although the building is modest in scale in comparison to Trost's major buildings in Albuquerque (see below) and break no new ground architecturally, it clearly shows his sure use of proportion and appropriate detail. It has been hardly altered and is one of only five remaining apartment buildings in the city built before 1925.

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Significance

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Henry Trost, who lived in El Paso and did a large proportion of his work there, designed many of Albuquerque's premier buildings, among them the Occidental Life Insurance Co. Building (listed on the National Register 1/30/78), the First National Bank (National Register listing 2/2/79), the Franciscan Hotel (demolished 1972), the Berthold Spitz House (National Register listing 12/22/77) and the Sunshine Building. Lloyd and June Marie Engelbrecht note in their recent book on Trost that during his lifetime "Trost's buildings were found to be models of 'structural proportion,'" and this quality is clearly evident in the Eller Apartments. Its straightforward symmetry, well-handled detailing and generously-designed apartments mark it as an excellent example of Trost's small building design.

A collection of drawings, plans and photographs of Trost's buildings is now at the El Paso Public Library and a list of the New Mexico buildings in this collection was compiled by the library staff in 1983. Although the list is not comprehensive (the Spitz House and the Sunshine Building are omitted for example), it is the most complete record available of Trost buildings in the state. Three apartments are listed, all in Albuquerque; of these only one - the Eller Apartments - is represented by a photograph. The other two are concept drawings and neither is still standing, if ever built.

The apartments were commissioned in 1922 by Dr. C.E. Eller, a prominent local dentist, and completed that year. Construction was by E.J. Marchant who later built several major projects including the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, and the Veterans Administration Hospital and the Harwood School in Albuquerque. The apartments were apparently popular from the date of opening; few, if any, vacancies are recorded in the city directories after its first listing in 1923. An important tenant in its first year of use was outgoing New Mexico Governor M.C. Mechem who had moved to Albuquerque to start a law practice in the city. His partner later also lived in one of the apartments. The majority of the tenants were business owners or managers.

The building was sold to the Matteucci family in 1963. They recently sold it to the current owner who plans to convert the building into offices.