United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Historic Resources of Downtown Gallup McKinley County, New Mexico

- 1. Name: Rex Hotel
- 2. Location: 300 West 66th Avenue Gallup, New Mexico
- 3. Classification: Category building Ownership private Status unoccupied Accessible yes: unrestricted Present use: vacant
- 4. Owner of Property: CPS Associates c/o Timothy Smith P.O. Box 790 Gallup, NM 87301
- 5. Location of Legal Description: McKinley County Courthouse 205-209 West Hill Street Gallup, New Mexico
- Representation in Existing Surveys: New Mexico Historic Building Inventory August 1985 New Mexico Historic Preservation Division 228 E. Palace Avenue, Rm 101 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503
- 7. Description: Condition fair altered original site

The 1910, two-story, Rex Hotel is constructed of locally quarried sandstone in the Stone Commercial Style. Located on the corner of 3rd and 66th Avenue, this building is threatened with demolition.

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Behind a small and recently added brick cornice, the Rex Hotel has a hipped roof, with multiple brick chimneys. Below the added brick cornice, the original cornice line consists of protruding stones in a dentil-like arrangement. The upper-story is punctuated by seven one-over-one, double hung, wooden windows on the east side, and two on the north. Another one-over-one, double-hung, wooden window is located above the entrance on the northeast corner.

The street level of this hotel remains in its original condition on the east side. At the far south an arched doorway leads to the interior. Just north of the arched door, is located a rectangular doorway which leads to the rear of the first floor. The windows at this level are small casement windows, located at approximately seven and a half feet above ground level. Apparently there were stairs on the exterior at the rear of the building which led to the upper floor. These stairs are now gone and there is no access to the upstairs. The windows on the north side are storefront display windows in four parts with a transom lite. The stone in this area has been stuccoed.

The main entrance to the building is located in a diagonal cut on the northeast corner. This type of entry was typical on corner buildings on Railroad Avenue (66th Avenue), and now only a handful remain. The doorway at this entrance has been modernized; the door is aluminum and fully glazed and the transom is fixed glass. The stone in this area has been stuccoed.

The interior of the structure is in fair condition. The ground floor is one large room with partial wood and vinyl floors, and an elaborate stamped tin ceiling coved at the corners. A stairway at the rear leads to the basement.

The building is threatened with demolition which will clear space for a proposed municipal parking lot. The Rex Hotel is located directly across the street from the Palace Hotel and serves as an anchor to the corner.

8. Significance: Area of significance architecture commerce Period of significance 1910 Criterion A associations with second coal boom Criterion C Stone Commercial Style **United States Department of the interior** National Park Service

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The 1910 Rex Hotel is architecturally significant for its Stone Commercial style and historically significant for its association with the second economic coal boom in Gallup.

Historically, The Rex is associated with the second coal boom inspired building flurry in Gallup. It is included in a group of many hotel buildings in Gallup which are important for their association with the early automobile-related tourist trade. Located on Highway 66, this hotel, like others on 66, represented downtown Gallup to many tourists on their way through the area. Many tourists may have viewed the Rex as the most authentically "western" due to its sandstone construction and "rustic" appearance.

Architecturally, this hotel remains as the best example of the Stone Commercial Style in town. Built of locally quarried sandstone, this type of architecture is a regional variation of the Decorative Brick Commercial Style.

- 9. Major Bibliographical References: See continuation sheets
- 10. Geographical Data: The nominated property consists of Lot 1, Block
 31, of the Original Townsite. Quadrangle Name: Gallup East Quadrangle Scale: 7.5 minute Acreage: less than one acre UTM References: Zone 12 Easting 704580 Northing 3933670