



# News Release

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State of New Mexico  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Church, Trading Post and Office Building Designated Historic**

**Santa Fe** — A rare example of John Gaw Meem architecture completed in the Territorial Revival style, and one of the few remaining traditional Navajo trading posts have been recommended for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. A state review panel also listed the fourth tallest building in Roswell in the State Register of Cultural Properties

The New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs said today that the Borrego Pass Trading Post Historic District in a remote part of McKinley County, and Immanuel Presbyterian Church — prominent in Albuquerque’s Nob Hill neighborhood — are worthy of National Register status. A third building, the Hinkle Building in Roswell, was listed in the State Register of Cultural Properties by the Cultural Properties Review Committee for its association with New Mexico’s oil boon years.

### **Immanuel Presbyterian Church**

The church was completed in three stages between 1949 and 1956 but designed as a whole by Meem, who then was New Mexico’s most prominent architect. The fledgling congregation asked Meem, who is most closely associated with the Pueblo Revival style, to design the building in the Territorial Revival style. Its crisp neoclassical lines and massive sanctuary were said to be inspired by San Esteban del Rey mission church at Acoma Pueblo.

“What resulted was a remarkable building,” Roy Morgan told the CPRC at its October 15 meeting. He consulted on the nomination and is office manager of the church.

The church’s airy sanctuary is accented by hand carved wood reliefs that form a chancel cross and hand-crafted starburst sheet metal light fixtures. The figures for the cross were designed in plaster by Santa Fe artist Eugenie Shonnard, who studied with Rodin in Paris; the church still owns most of the plaster models. The sanctuary’s remarkable acoustics have made it a sought after concert venue in Albuquerque for years.

Immanuel Presbyterian's handsome exterior takes advantage of its location on a rise on Carlisle Street. Its three stories ascend uphill and are crowned by a bell tower completed in a series of step-backs. The brick coping and massing of the building reflect Meem's mastery of the Territorial Revival style.

The church was listed in the State Register in 2004. The nomination was expanded by Scott Sandlin and Eleanor Mitchell, of Albuquerque, for National Register listing in recognition of its association with Meem, his other nationally known architecture, and for its association with the growth of the Nob Hill and university neighborhoods along historic Route 66.

### **Trading Post**

Borrogo Pass Trading Post Historic District was listed in the State Register and will be forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register. It is considered nationally significant for its association with commerce, the Navajo Nation and the Mormon faith.

The trading post has operated since 1927 when it was established by Ben and Anna Harvey. Navajo shepherders traded wool — they also bartered in rugs, jewelry and piñon nuts — for goods offered by the Harveys and subsequent owners who marketed the wool, which ended up in sweaters as far away as England.

Today, Borrogo Pass Trading Post transactions largely are completed with money, the sheep are gone and the general merchandise has changed. But of the estimated 400 trading posts that once existed in the Four Corners region, Borrogo Pass is one of the few survivors that did not succumb to convenience store trade, abandonment or demolition. Most trading posts went out of business by the 1980s as the economy increasingly focused on oil-and-gas development, trade was conducted in cash and sheep were depleted both from overgrazing and by government enforced reductions of herds on Navajo lands.

"HPD and the CPRC have long worked to increase public recognition of the important role trading posts played in the state's economy and reshaping its cultural boundaries," said Terry Moody, HPD's register coordinator. "This is the eighth New Mexico trading post listed in either the State or National Register."

HPD has surveyed approximately 40 trading posts and sites of former trading posts in the last 17 years. The posts became major points of contact between the Navajo and Anglo worlds until around World War II, and often served as social gathering places for Navajo families who tended to live in remote locations.

Part of the reason for Borrogo Pass Trading Post's survival is its isolated location along County Road 509, which was paved for the first time in the last year, according to Lilian Makeda and Dr. Klara B. Kelley, who prepared the nomination. They said the trading post's continued operation by current owners DeForrest and Donald Smouse, whose family purchased the property in 1940, has much to do with it being run in a more traditional manner. The Navajo still trade in piñon nuts, livestock and horses although mostly through monetary transactions.

The trading post is part of a district nomination that also includes a main residence, a Navajo hogan, garden, two pastures, a warehouse, several out buildings and structures, and a Mormon church. A

large number of Navajoland traders have belonged to the Church of the Latter Day Saints. The chapel at Borrego Pass Trading Post attests to the broad impact Mormonism has had on the region and also makes the district eligible for national recognition as a religious property.

### **Hinkle Building**

Roswell's most significant example of Mid-Century Modern architecture was listed in the State Register. The Hinkle Building, associated with nationally known attorney and author of New Mexico's Oil and Gas Leasing Act Clarence E. Hinkle, is Roswell's fourth tallest but sits abandoned amidst the city's skyline.

Consultant Heather Barrett, of Las Cruces, submitted the nomination. She said the building's status as a center for many oil companies in the middle part of the last century and its association with the oil boon years may eventually qualify it for the National Register.

At one time the building housed retail outlets on its first floor and district offices for several oil giants, including Sinclair, Sunray, Mid-Continental Oil Company and Shell, upstairs. The law office of Hervey Dow & Hinkle was located on the sixth floor penthouse, added in a third construction phase of the building, which began as a two-story real estate venture by Hinkle.

Hinkle became nationally known as one of the country's leading experts on the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, which governed leasing of oil, gas, coal and other minerals owned by the U.S. He co-drafted Alaska's oil-and-gas leasing statutes and wrote the Artesian Conservancy District Act, which was the first water conservancy act affecting underground water supplies in the U.S. He also organized the New Mexico Military Institute Foundation.

The Hinkle Building was purchased in 2009 by Michael Hurst, of Roswell. He plans a major rehabilitation of the building to replace its roof and remove mold and asbestos. He plans to use HPD's tax credit program to preserve the building's clean Modernist lines, signature terrazzo floors and other Mid-Century Modern features while upgrading the building's infrastructure.

Hurst's physical therapy practice will operate on the first floor and a senior living facility is planned for the upper floors. The building is considered an import anchor downtown and its rehabilitation is expected to spur additional reinvestment in Roswell's core.

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