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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Modern Auto Court
other names/site number Nob Hill Motel

2. Location

street & number 3712 Central Avenue SE not for publication
city or town Albuquerque vicinity
state New Mexico code NM county Bernalillo code 001 zip code 87108

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Ann Will S/DPO 10-4-93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Debra Pursant Director State of New Mexico
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Betty Savage Date of Action 11-22-93

Modern Auto Court
Name of Property

Bernalillo County, NM
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Hist. & Arch. Resources of Rt. 66 through NM

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Southwest Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls stucco

roof asphalt

other brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Modern Auto Court
Name of Property

Bernalillo County, NM
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

transportation

architecture

Period of Significance

1937-1956

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Modern Auto Court
Name of Property

Bernalillo County, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	3	3	5	3	9	3	0	3	8	8	2	7	8	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

3

Zone			Easting					Northing						

4

Zone			Easting					Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David J. Kammer, Ph.D.
organization contract historian date August, 1993
street & number 521 Aliso Dr. NE telephone (505) 266-0586
city or town Albuquerque state NM zip code 87108

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 & 8 Page 1

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

7. Description

The Nob Hill Motel consists of four one-story buildings with flat asphalt roofs with a gravel buildup, beige stucco walls over tile block or frame, and concrete foundations. The motel's details embrace modest decorative elements suggesting two of the building styles popular in Albuquerque in the late 1930s. Southwest Vernacular Style elements include the roughly textured stucco walls and parapets, and the brick coping and block glass sidelights at some of the doors hint at the Moderne Style. Most of the windows are metal casement with some double-hung wood frame windows. The doors to the units are solid wood. Concrete steps with wrought iron railings lead to the office which has a wood panel door with six upper lights.

The property is located in the middle of the block with space uncharacteristically limited for motels along Route 66 in New Mexico. All of the fifteen units except for one in a separate building at the property's northeast corner are located along two wings forming a broken L-plan. The office/residence is located in the middle of the paved courtyard. Landscaping is limited to a few evergreens growing between the sidewalk paralleling the units and the buildings. The motel's sign, a replacement of the original dating to when the motel was renamed the Nob Hill Motel in 1955, consists of a large vertical panel with neon, extending out over the sidewalk and supported by a metal post. An additional neon sign is on the office's facade above the entry. Alterations to the motel include the infill of two garages. The spatial arrangement of the property and the relatively unaltered appearance of the buildings imbue the property with a strong feeling of a 1930s tourist court.

8. Statement of Significance

The Nob Hill Motel, or Modern Auto Court as it was first known, is one of the best examples of a relatively unaltered pre-

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8,9&10 Page 2

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Significance (continued)

World War II tourist court remaining along Route 66 in New Mexico. Built in 1937, the year in which Route 66 was realigned along Central Avenue, it is one of the oldest tourist courts along the East Central Avenue commercial trip. Because of this close association with tourism along Route 66, the property is eligible under Criterion A. The property also qualifies under Criterion C for the way in which its setting, location, design and materials reflect early tourist court construction in New Mexico. In particular, the spatial arrangement of the complex and its use of building materials such as double-hung and glass block windows and tile block associated with building in Albuquerque in the 1930s recall its early date.

9. Bibliography

Albuquerque City Directory. 1937.

Caufield and Caufield. "Nob Hill Motel Study." Prepared for Nob Hill Main Street Inc, 1988. NMSHPO.

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 4-7 and 70 ft. of Lot 8 of Block 2 of the Mankato Place Addition.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes only the portion of the lots on which the nominated buildings are situated.

