

SR- 1618

METROPOLITAN PARK

BATHHOUSE AND

SWIMMING POOL

HISTORIC DISTRICT-

TUCUMCARI

SR- 1618

# NOMINATION

1618

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

**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 any 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 Metropolitan Park Bathhouse and Pool Historic District  
other names/site number Five Mile Park, Apache Wells Lions Club Park

**2. Location**

street & number S. Frontage Rd. of I-40, 1.5 mi. W of Tucumcari-W interstate exit  not  
for publication  
city or town Tucumcari  vicinity  
state New Mexico code NM county Quay code 037 zip code 88401

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or 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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Metropolitan Park Bathhouse and Pool Historic District

Quay, NM

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing and 4 rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total

Name of related multiple property listing

in (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Hist. & Arch. Resources of the New Deal: NM

Number of contributing resources previously listed the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation: outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation: outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Spanish-Pueblo Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete, walls stucco, roof asphalt, other concrete

Narrative Description

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

Metropolitan Park Bathhouse and Pool Historic District  
Name of Property

Quay, 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 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 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  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

social history  
entertainment/recreation  
architecture  
landscape architecture

**Period of Significance**

1935-1943

**Significant Dates**

1940

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Trent Thomas

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Metropolitan Park Bathhouse and Pool Historic District

Quay, NM

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1.8

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

- 1. 113 609280 38896210 3. 111 111111 111111
2. 111 111111 111111 4. 111 111111 111111

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 Kammer, Ph.D
organization contract historian date Sept. 30, 1995
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 district 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 the 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 the 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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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Metropolitan Park Bathhouse and Pool Historic District  
Quay County, NM

Description

The Metropolitan Park Bathhouse and Pool Historic District, locally referred to as Five Mile Park, consists of a parcel measuring 240 x 330 ft. that contains one contributing building, one contributing structure, and one contributing site. Encompassing a bathhouse, landscaped park and swimming pool the district is set in rolling terrain at the west end of the city. The bathhouse, a one story building with a flat roof, is built in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival Style; the swimming pool is concrete; the park, landscaped with Siberian elms, lilacs, iris, and various grasses, lies between the bathhouse to the north and the pool to the south. Access to the small district is from a south frontage road paralleling I-40. The interstate's right-of-way has truncated the northern portion of the once larger city park, and the former entry to the park along what was once Route 66 now lies north of the interstate. The complex is lined with a stepped concrete block wall on its south and west sides. With its regional architecture, irregularly shaped pool, and frontier pastoral park, the district conveys the feeling of a New Deal recreational facility.

Bathhouse

The bathhouse is a one-story building with a concrete foundation, brown stucco over adobe walls, and a flat asphalt roof. The L-plan building incorporates many of the Spanish-Pueblo Revival Style's defining details including a modest irregular massing of horizontal planes, slightly battered walls, exposed beams, or vigas, drainage ducts, or canales, a long portal supported by heavy wood posts with corbels, and lintels above paired and grouped wood casement windows. Flagstone covers the portal floor as well as the interior reception room.

The interior also reflects many of the labor-intensive details characterizing New Deal-era building projects. The ceiling consists of 13"x 15" hand-hewn beams supporting 8" wide

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Metropolitan Park Bathhouse and Pool Historic District  
Quay County, NM

Description (continued)

vigas covered by split aspen poles, or latillas. The corbels in the lobby were cut from the unused ends of the beams. Lintels appear over some interior doors. The men's and women's showers and bathrooms had wooden benches and shiplap vertical walls (now removed) and concrete floors with drains. The building's logs were shipped from northern New Mexico, and the stones were quarried from nearby Mesa Redondo.

Swimming Pool

The swimming pool is a large curvilinear concrete structure once reputed to be the largest outdoor pool in New Mexico. Measuring 180 ft. in length and 125 ft. in width, the pool ranges in depth from 6 inches to 14 ft. and has a capacity of 400,000 gallons. A shallow entry lies at the pool's west side where local cut sandstone, also used for the pool apron and walkways, is massed as if to reflect the topography of the Caprock as it appears in Quay County.

Park

Located between the bathhouse and the swimming pool is a rectangular park. Shaded by a canopy of Siberian elms and with scattered clumps of lilacs and iris along its eastern border, the park conveys a strong feeling of the frontier pastoral landscape found in many of New Mexico's New Deal landscapes. A series of low stone retaining walls line the park where it meets the security chainlink fence protecting the pool.

With the construction of a new municipal pool in downtown Tucumcari, the pool was drained in 1977. In 1978 a local Lions Club signed a lease to operate the park, renting it for group picnics such as the community's annual Rattler Reunion. Limited by funds, the group has maintained the bathhouse as a meeting facility, but the roof is in need of repair and some original elements including the windows on the north (rear) side of the



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Continuation Sheet**

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Metropolitan Park Bathhouse and Pool Historic District  
Quay County, NM

Description (continued)

building have been filled in. Most of these changes are reversible. Local citizens feel very strongly about the historic significance of the bathhouse and pool and would like to find ways to restore the bathhouse and reopen the pool.

Statement of Significance

The Metropolitan Park Bathhouse and Pool Historic District recalls the public recreational facilities often undertaken as New Deal projects in towns across New Mexico. In addition to stimulating the local economy through the jobs they created, these projects were meant to promote the well-being of residents by expanding recreational opportunities as well as providing a community gathering place. Longtime residents recall that on summer weekends over 500 swimmers and 1,500 spectators often gathered at the pool. The district is eligible under Criterion A as exemplary of the ways in which New Deal projects affected both patterns of social history and entertainment/recreation in New Mexico. The district is also eligible under Criterion C as a reminder of how New Deal building and landscape projects used labor-intensive construction practices that emphasized local design, materials and workmanship for public buildings and grounds.

The district is a part of a C.C.C. project completed in 1940. Referred to as Metropolitan Park, the park became known locally as Five Mile Park in the 1950s. The completed project marked a five year process in which the town government worked with the C.C.C. The town obtained the land from local ranchers, dug wells in the vicinity, extended electricity to power the pumps, and supplied some of the money to meet the costs of materials. The CCC supplied the manpower from nearby Camp SP-7-N, as well as the design plans for the bathhouse and swimming pool.

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Metropolitan Park Bathhouse and Pool Historic District  
Quay County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

The architect for the bathhouse was Trent Thomas, Senior Foreman Architect of Emergency Conservation Work for the National Park Service. Familiar with the vocabulary of the Pueblo Revival Style from his supervision of the Rapp and Rapp firm's design of Santa Fe's La Fonda Hotel, he adapted many of the same design elements, albeit at a more modest scale, for the bathhouse.

Bibliography

Moncus, Mary Lynn and Marian Farmer Knapp eds. Quay County, 1903-1985. Lubbock, Texas: Craftsmen Printers Inc., 1985

Smith, Toby. "Hunting for US 66." Albuquerque Journal Magazine. Nov. 24, 1981, pp. 6-13.

Thomas, Trent. "Bath House Plans." Courtesy of the City of Tucumcari Planning Department.

Verbal Boundary Description

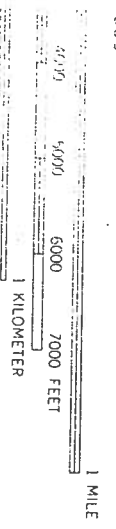
The boundary includes the rectangle in the extreme northwest portion of Metropolitan Park measuring 240 by 330 ft. and bounded by the walls surrounding the pool on the south and west, the rear wall of the bathhouse on the north, and the fence extending from the pool to the bathhouse on the east.

Boundary Justification

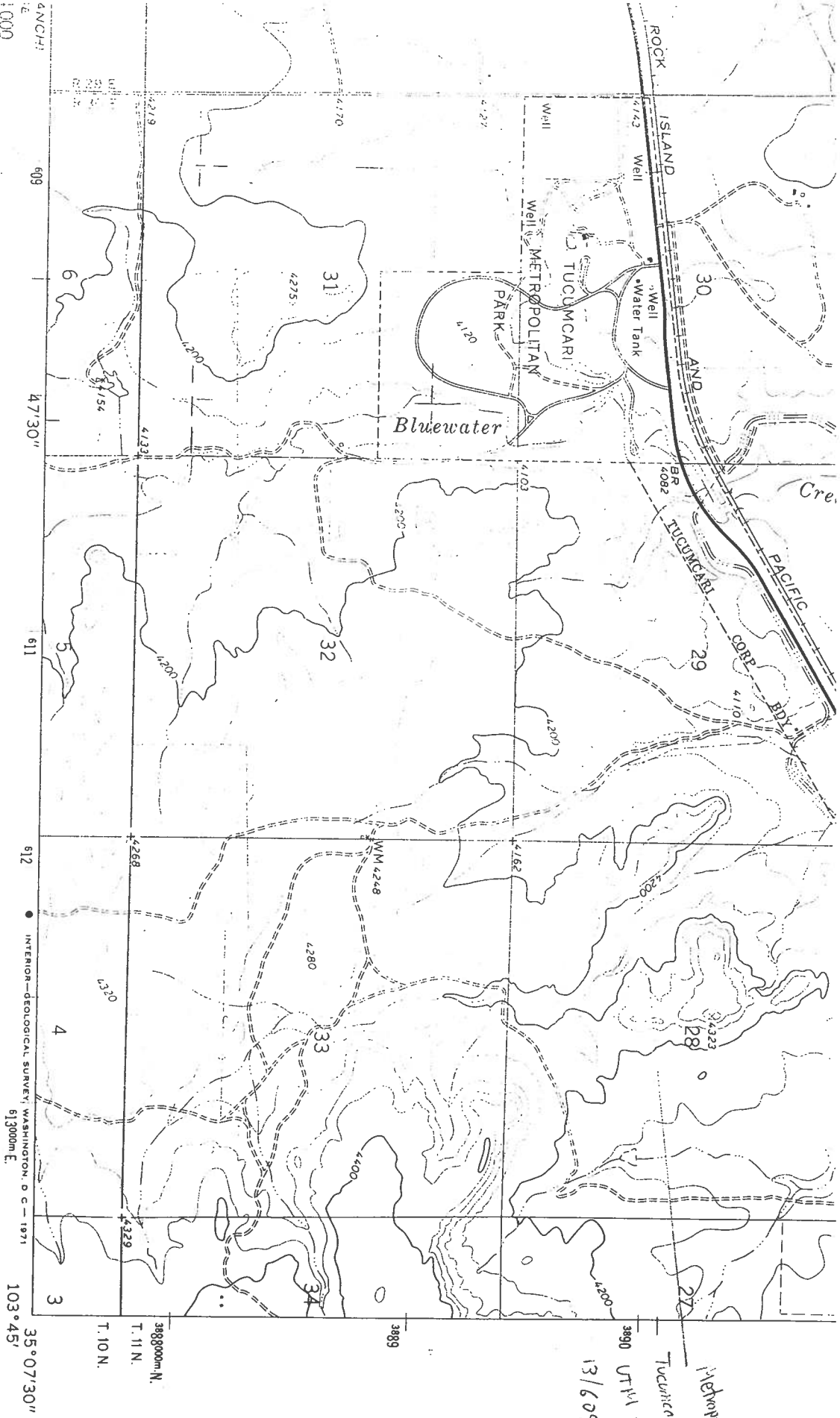
The boundary has been drawn to include only the parcel historically associated with the bathhouse, landscaped park and pool.

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 D SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

AL 40 FEET  
 SEA LEVEL



- ROAD CLASSIFICATION**
- Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
  - Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
  - Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
  - Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
  - Interstate Route
  - U. S. Route
  - State Route



*Handwritten notes:*  
 13/609280/38896  
 Tucumcari, Oregon  
 UTM Reference  
 Bluewater Park

**LIBERTY MESA, N. MEX.**

N3507.5—W10345/7.5

1967

AMS 5254 III NE—SERIES V881

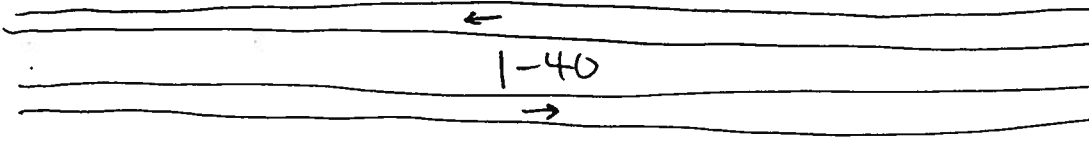
*(BULLDOG MESA)  
 5254 II SW*



Metropolitan Park Bathhouse  
and Pool Historic District

- Contributing Elements  
01 Bathhouse  
02 Swimming pool  
03 Park

1 inch=approx. 60 ft.



S. Frontage Rd.

