United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET  6. Hotel Cortez

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continuation sheet</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>Item number</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>Hotel Cortez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>300 North Mesa Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owner:</td>
<td>Jorge Murra Hidalgo 1270, Pts. 2 GDO Piso, Torreon Coahuila, Mexico</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Architect/Builder:</td>
<td>Trost and Trost</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Style: Spanish Colonial Revival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Original Use:</td>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>Present Use: Vacant</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Physical Description:
Designed as the luxurious Hotel Orndorff in the early 20th century, the Hotel Cortez is an elaborate representation of the Spanish Colonial Revival style with strong Renaissance overtones. The assortment of decorative elements skilfully applied to the tripartite format of the brick structure attests the artistic genius of Trost. Although the ground floor is masked behind a cover of modern materials and signage, the second floor bespeaks the original opulence of the base. Elegant arched reveals span the second level, separated by pilasters and medallions and infilled with French doors. In keeping with the Spanish influence are three dimensional busts of helmeted conquistadores and Spanish court coats of arms. The main entrance to the hotel is accentuated with an elaborate three story arched composition which terminates in a broken pediment. Flanking this pediment on the fifth story are bracket-supported balconies backed with a two story decorative composition. Distinct in design and linked with continuous horizontal decorative bands, the eleventh story windows are set apart from the others. A broadly projecting convex cornice displaying a bold egg and dart pattern terminates the building.

Statement of Significance:
Occupying a site which has served the city continuously as a source of hostelry, the Hotel Cortez, which faces San Jacinto Plaza, contributes significantly to the architectural make-up of the inner-city. Originally the site afforded the Hotel Vendome, an early El Paso lodging facility. This establishment was replaced with the Hotel Orndorff, which appears in historic photographs as a four story pressed brick structure with balustraded balconies running the width of the structure on two sides.

The new Hotel Orndorff, commissioned by Mrs. Charles DeGroff for $1,400,000, officially opened on September 10, 1926. Mrs. DeGroff died unexpectedly one month prior to the opening and approximately one year later, the Hussman Hotel Company purchased the business and changed its name to Hotel Hussman. In a contest held to rename it, Hotel Cortez, submitted by prominent local attorney Thornton Hadie, was chosen. On June 5, 1963, President Kennedy stayed overnight at the hotel. The building continued to serve the lodging needs of El Paso until the late 1960's. In 1970 it was leased to the Department of Labor as the El Paso Job Corps Center. Currently the structure is vacant.
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INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET 6. Hotel Cortez
Continuation sheet 11
Item number 7
Page 11

Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description: Mills Survey, Block 3, South 1/2 of Lot 17, all of Lot 18
130' on Mesa x 120' on Mills
Less than one

Acreage:

UTM Reference: 13/3514580/359139
 Basically a well done nomination. For the most part the buildings are
nicely executed examples of various architectural styles, designed by the city's
leading architect during the early decades of the 20th C. v have questions on
modifications about blade 1, 3, 4, 12, 13, and 17, however - see attached sheet
for specifics. Call about these 6 buildings the
next can be accepted.

See comments attached

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept: 1, 3, 5-11, 14-17
Project: 4, 12, 13

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit

Entered SEP 24 1980

United States Department of the Interior - Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
8000 4106
8000 4105
8000 4100
8000 4101
8000 4109
8000 4110
8000 4102
8000 4112
8000 4113
8000 4104
Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost
Hotel Cortez
300 N. Mesa Street
El Paso, El Paso County, Texas
Photo: Texas Historical Commission, 6/79
Negative on File
Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast
Photo # 6 of 36

APR 2 1980
Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost
Hotel Cortez
300 N. Mesa Street
El Paso, El Paso County, Texas
Historic Photo: Courtesy Southwest Collection, 3/80
El Paso Public Library
Negative on File at Library
West elevation from San Jacinto Plaza, Camera
facing east
Photo # 25 of 36
Commercial Structures if El Paso by Henry C. Trost
Hotel Cortez
300 N. Mesa Street
El Paso, El Paso County, Texas
Historic Photo: Courtesy Southwest Collection, 3/80
El Paso Public Library
Negative on File at Library

Interior Detail/ Lobby
Photo # 26 of 36
Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost
Hotel Cortez
300 N. Mesa Street
El Paso, El Paso County, Texas
Historic Photo: Courtesy Southwest Collection, 3/80
El Paso Public Library
Negative on File at Library
Interior Detail/ Ballroom
Photo # 27 of 36

APR 2 1980
Please refer to the map in the Multiple Property Cover Sheet for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000837