City of Alamosa Historic Registry



1 Wayside Post Office (1874)

6349 North River Road



The log cabin was built in 1874 by James Maddux and served as a post office for the area. The Barlow Sanderson Stage delivered mail and an occasional passenger twice daily on its route from Fort Garland to Del Norte. The building precedes the founding of the City of Alamosa which occurred in 1878.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 02-2018

2 Alamosa Masonic Hall (1887)

517 San Juan Ave



Built in 1887, it was one of the first major buildings to be constructed on what would become Alamosa's Main Street. Street-level retail stores supported the second-story hall both physically and financially. The building's elaborate stamped metal upper story represents a period of construction associated with the arrival of the railroad and the resulting ability to import prefabricated architectural elements.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 5-2011

3 The Carver House (1901)

315 State Ave



Originally built in 1901, and established by sisters Eula and Maude Carver, the Carver House has served as a private home, boarding house, and a commercial office space over the last century. Throughout its history, the Carver House has maintained its historical integrity and continues to exhibit the majority of its original architectural features.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 9-2016

4 Richardson Triplex (1906)

514, 516, 518 Seventh Street



The Richardson Triplex is a terraced row house (now usually referred to as townhomes) that was built in 1906 and is a great example of the type of housing being built at that time for railroad workers. The building is significant because of its distinctive architecture featuring a high level of design while utilizing common building materials. The exterior has remained virtually unchanged since its construction.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 13-2014

5 Martinez Shoe Store (1906)

504 State Avenue





The 504 State Ave building was constructed in 1906 and shares significant architectural features with its neighboring buildings. The current proprietor, the Martinez Shoe Store, has been located in the building since the 1950s.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 16-2018

6 First Baptist Church (1907-08)

408 State Avenue





Photo Courtesy of Neilson Library Digital Collection

Constructed in 1907, the First Baptist Church on State Ave is the oldest standing church in Alamosa. The steeply pitched complex roof with a dominant front-facing gable, the corner tower, and patterned shingles are all characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Queen Anne is an unusual expression for ornamental concrete block in Colorado. Although pattern books and builders' catalogs included some Queen Anne examples, most concrete block construction in Colorado relied on more simplified styles.

Designated Historic by State and HPAC in 2005

7 The Depot (1908)

610 State Ave



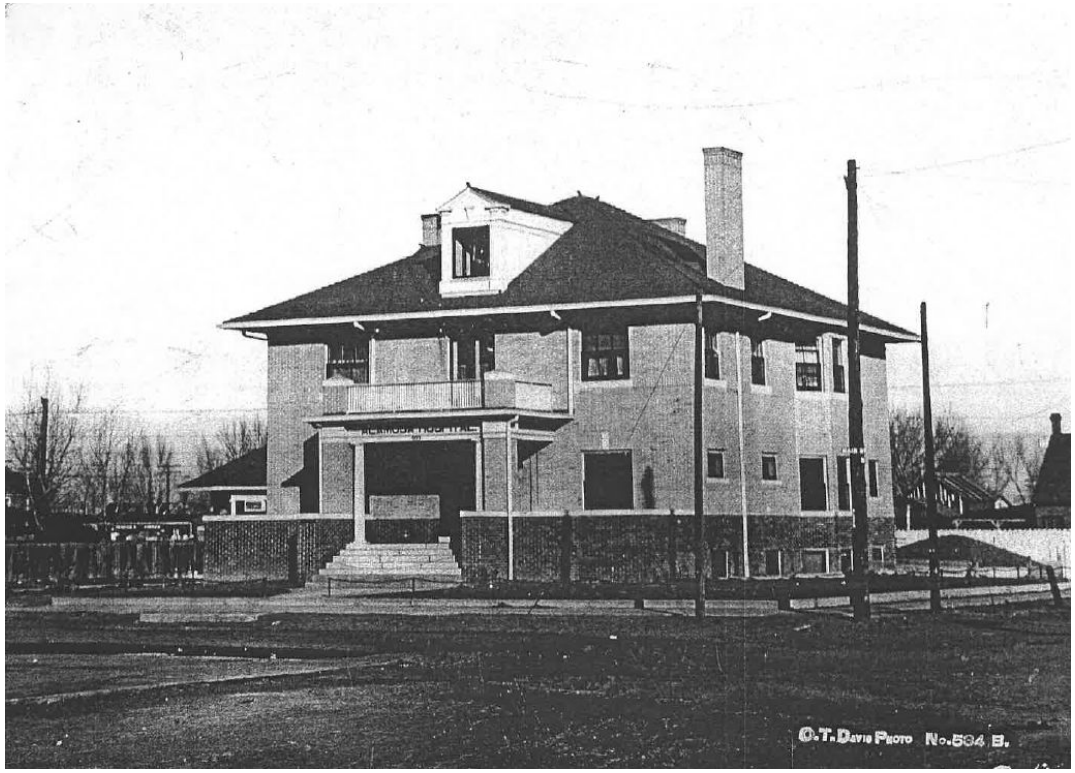
Photo Courtesy of Neilson Library Digital Collection

The Rio Grande Depot that stands today was built in 1908 after a fire destroyed the original depot. Although this depot is not associated with the founding of Alamosa it is significant due to its role in the growth of the railroad in Colorado and its continued contribution to economic development in the region. Despite the interior undergoing extensive renovation, the exterior remains well-maintained and mostly unchanged. After it stopped being used as a railroad depot, it has hosted a variety of office spaces - including the current the Colorado Welcome Center. The Depot, as the building is still called, continues its legacy of welcoming visitors to Alamosa!

Designated Historic by Resolution No.10-2023 on National Registry in 1993

8 Freiberger Building now Porter Realty (1908-09)

503 Main Street

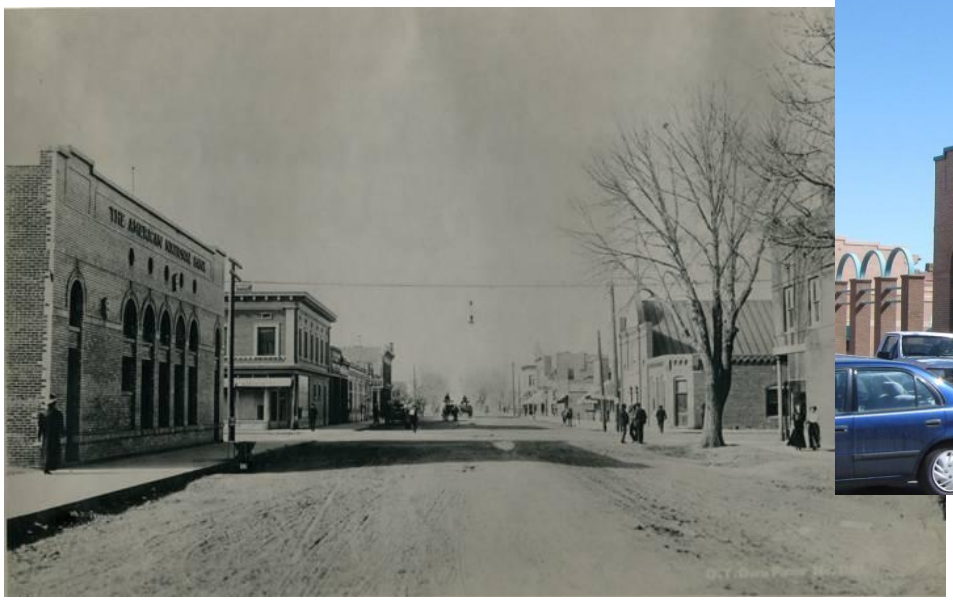


The Freiberger Building, built in 1908, was the first significant hospital in Alamosa and served the community until 1921. The availability of a hospital is closely tied to the development of Alamosa in the early part of the 20th century. It is an example of the American Foursquare or "Prairie Box" style that was popular in Colorado from the 1900-1920s.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 31-2007

9 American National Bank (1909-10)

500 State Avenue





Constructed in 1909 during a period of rapid growth in the San Luis Valley, the building reflects the optimism associated with an important phase of downtown Alamosa's commercial development. It is an excellent example of an Arcaded Block, a popular commercial building type during the early decades of the 20th century. The building was a bank until 1951 when it became a flower shop, it is now Revitalize Medical Spa. It retains many of its original exterior features and was partially restored in 2003.

Designated Historic by National Register in 1999 and HPAC in 2006

10 Emperius Building (1909)

529 Main Street



The Emperius Block in a 1911 photograph taken by O.T. Davis, who was a tenant in the Emperius block from 1913 through sometime in the 1930's.

Photo Courtesy of Neilson Library Digital Collection

The two-story block was built in 1909 by the Emperius family and the ground floor originally housed two retail businesses. The well-known photographer O.T. Davis, famous for his views of Colorado and the San Luis Valley, was a tenant from 1913 through sometime in the 1930s. The 1920s additions originally housed an automobile showroom and repair operation. The commercial red brick construction is significant as it typifies the construction popular in downtown Alamosa during its boom years from 1910 through the 1920s. The Emperius Building is an excellent, highly visible example of this type of construction.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 3-2005

11

Ross Water Tower (1911-1912)

701 Ross Ave



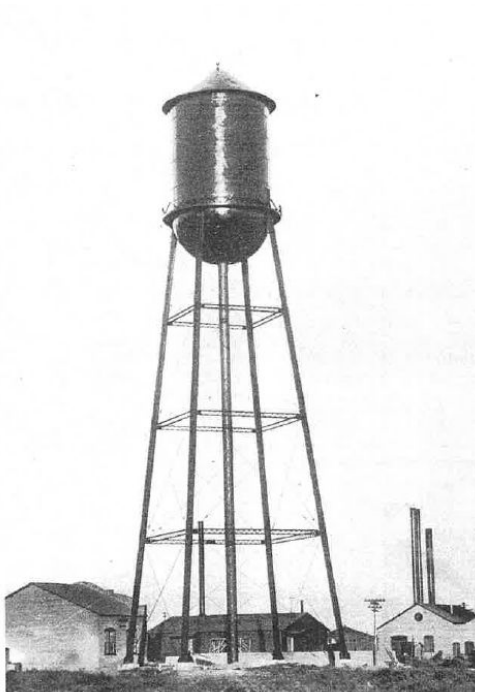


Photo Courtesy of Neilson Library Digital Collection

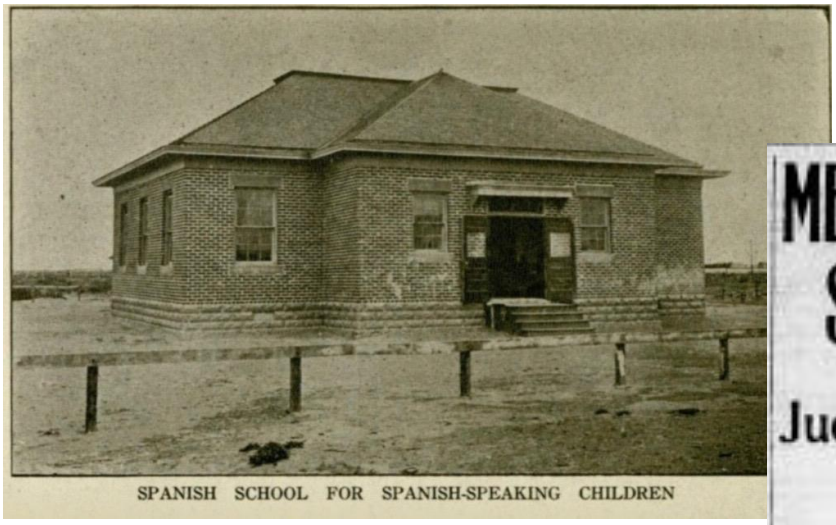
In 1910, Alamosa reached a population of over 3,000 and needed a dependable domestic water system. The water tower was built in 1911 and has essentially remained unaltered since its construction. The city constructed a modern water treatment plant on the site in 2008 following a change in the federal regulations regarding the amount of permissible arsenic in the water supply. The tower is a landmark that can be seen for several miles, and signifies an important milestone in an era of growth in Alamosa from a country crossroads to a thriving community.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 26-2012

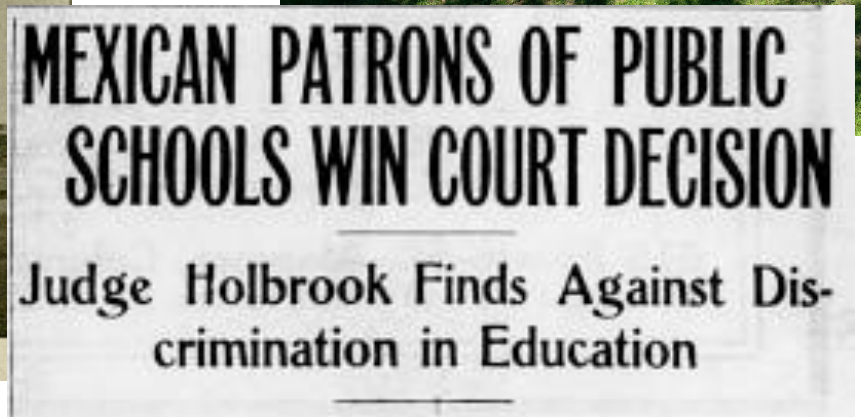
12 Maestas Case School (1912-1914)

Zapata Park





SPANISH SCHOOL FOR SPANISH-SPEAKING CHILDREN



MEXICAN PATRONS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS WIN COURT DECISION

Judge Holbrook Finds Against Discrimination in Education

The old Mexican Preparatory School (formally known as the Willis School) that used to stand in Zapata Park may be gone, but its history and impact has left an indelible mark in U.S. history. The schoolhouse seen in the photo above sparked one of the earliest Mexican-American challenges to school segregation in the U.S. - Francisco Maestas et al. v. George H. Shone et al. 1912-1914.

To learn more about this historic case visit Zapata Park or Visit the Maestas Commemoration Committee website maestascase.com

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 12-2022

13 Velhagen Clock (1912)

Originally at 505 State Ave





The Velhagen Clock is a 15-foot-high, one ton, four-foot diameter, two-dialed Seth Thomas clock with cast iron gingerbread details from the early 1900's. The clock was installed in 1912 at 505 State Avenue by the owners of the Velhagen Brothers Jewelry Store. The clock cost them nearly $1,000, and they wound it by hand every eight days. Only about 200 hundred of these clocks were made and ours is one of only 10 left. The clock was restored and installed downtown in 2024 with help from over 20 local volunteers and a grant from the National Trust for Historic Places.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 9-2023

14 KRZA Community Radio (1923)

528 Ninth St





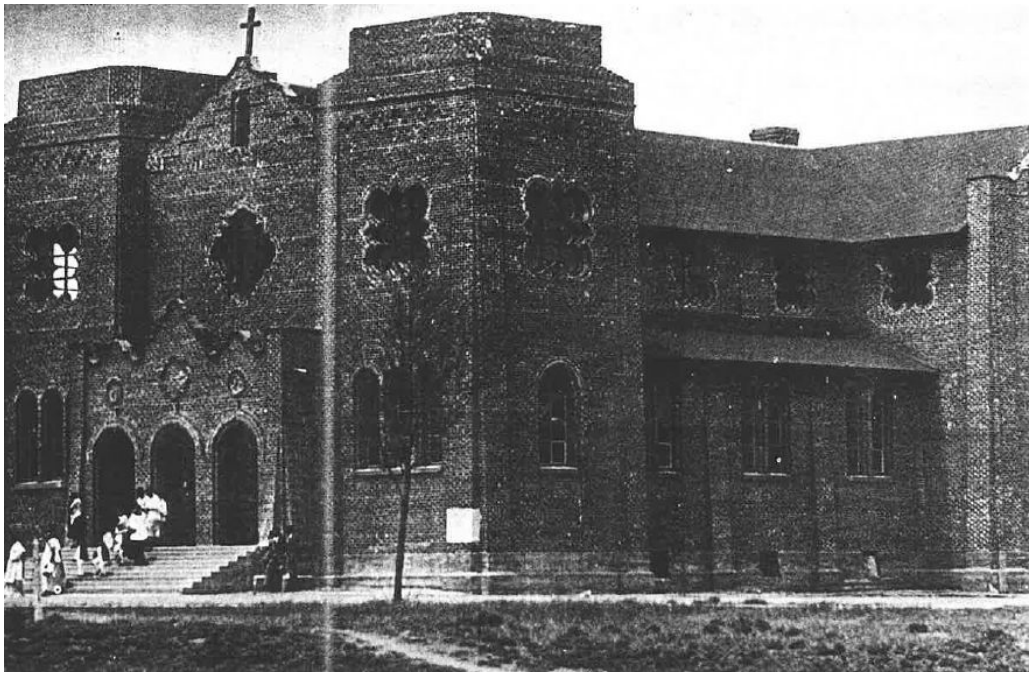
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE — KRZA's "Buy a Watt" membership drive is in full swing. Members of the membership drive committee, from left to right, are: Ann Stanford, Priscilla Martinez, Jessie Corona, Elaine Salazar, Antoinette Martinez and Santiago, Emilio Dominguez, Joseph Salazar, Dannette Jaquez, Pat Stanford and Angel Mendez. Members not present include Carmen Kelly, Anna Romero, Kathy Trujillo, James Martinez, Juanita Carbajal, Jerry Cisneros and Angie DeHerrera. (Courtesy photo)

Built in 1923, 528 Ninth Street was first a private residence before becoming the Colorado Migrant Council offices. It has been KRZA Community Radio since the mid-80s. Initially conceived in the mid-70's, KRZA was the brainchild of a collective of women in the San Luis Valley who felt the need for a media outlet that would serve the area's Hispanic community. It took ten years to get the funding, licensing, and know-how necessary to bring KRZA to the air-waves. With help from the Colorado Migrant Council, who donated the use of the second floor of the building on 9th Street and State Avenue. KRZA Community Radio signed on the air officially in October of 1985. Tune in to 88.7 FM!

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 7-2017

15 Sacred Heart Catholic Church (1922-28)

727 Fourth Street



Constructed began in 1922 and finished in 1928, the Sacred Heart Catholic Church is an interpretation of the Spanish Mission Style. It was designed by the prominent Denver architect Robert Willison. Aside from its imposing architecture, the church is well known in the community for its outstanding murals. Father McCarthy invited German artist Josef Steinhage from Chicago to paint the murals in the sanctuary in 1942 and 1946. Sacred Heart Church is a vibrant hub of diverse cultural traditions, serving the Anglo, Hispano, Mexican, and Guatemalan populations that embody the cultural and spiritual wealth of the San Luis Valley.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 22-2007 on National Registry since 1998

16

Richardson Hall (1924-25)

208 Edgemont Blvd



Richardson Hall, named for Ira Richardson, the first President of Adams State, was originally constructed in 1924-25. In those early years, it contained the entirety of the school, which was founded as a teacher's college. Richardson Hall is a three story Classical Revival structure. Elements include the full height portico supported by Doric columns and surmounted by a pediment with the original name of the university, "Adams State Normal School" carved in the entablature. Richardson Hall, which represents the founding and enduring presence of Adams State University in the history and economic vitality of Alamosa and the San Luis Valley, greatly contributes to the community's sense of identity.

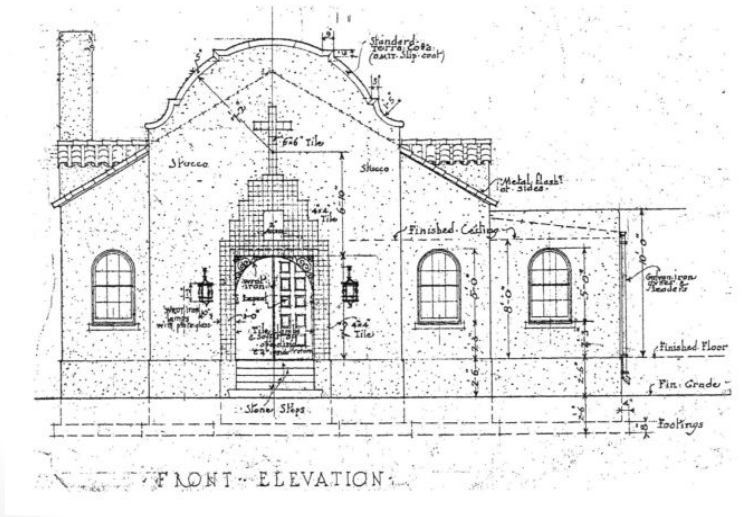
Designated Historic by Resolution No. 14-2015

17

St. Thomas Episcopal Church (1925-30)

607 Fourth Street





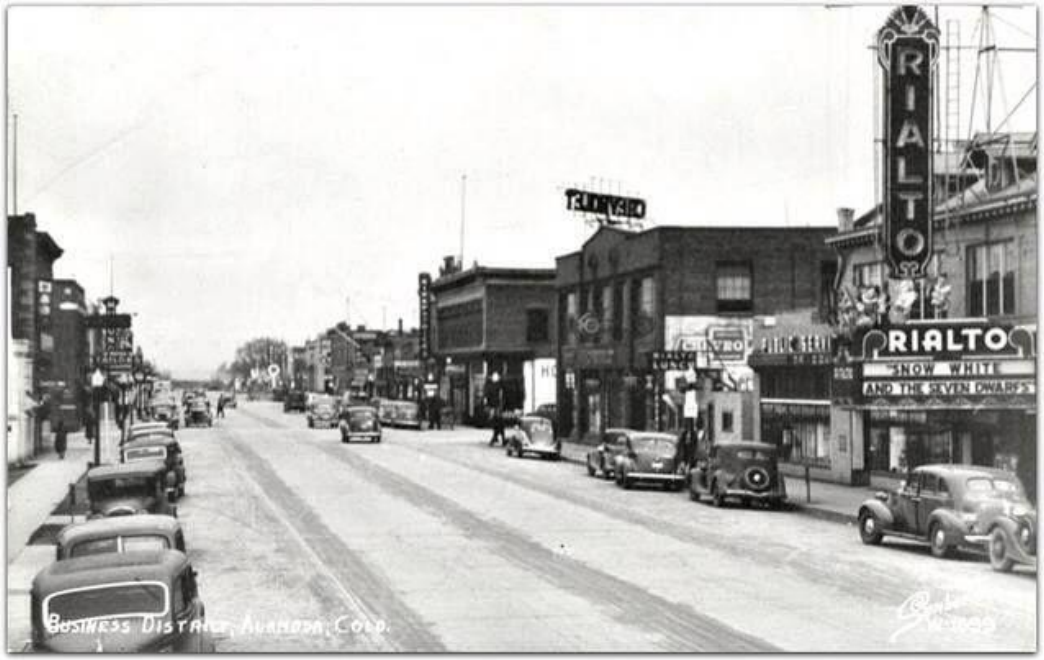
Original architectural drawings from the 1930s and 1940s

The St. Thomas Episcopal Church, now known as the Friar's Fork Restaurant, was designed by the prominent Denver architectural firm of William E. Fisher and Arthur A. Fisher in the Mission Revival style. The use of the Mission style was unusual for the architectural firm as well, which was renowned for its Mediterranean style designs. Friar's Fork is one of four examples of the Mission style identified in Alamosa County, all of which are in the town of Alamosa, and each presenting its own distinctive interpretation of the style.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 21-2007

18 American Legion Hall; Rialto Theater (1925-26)

714-718 Main Street

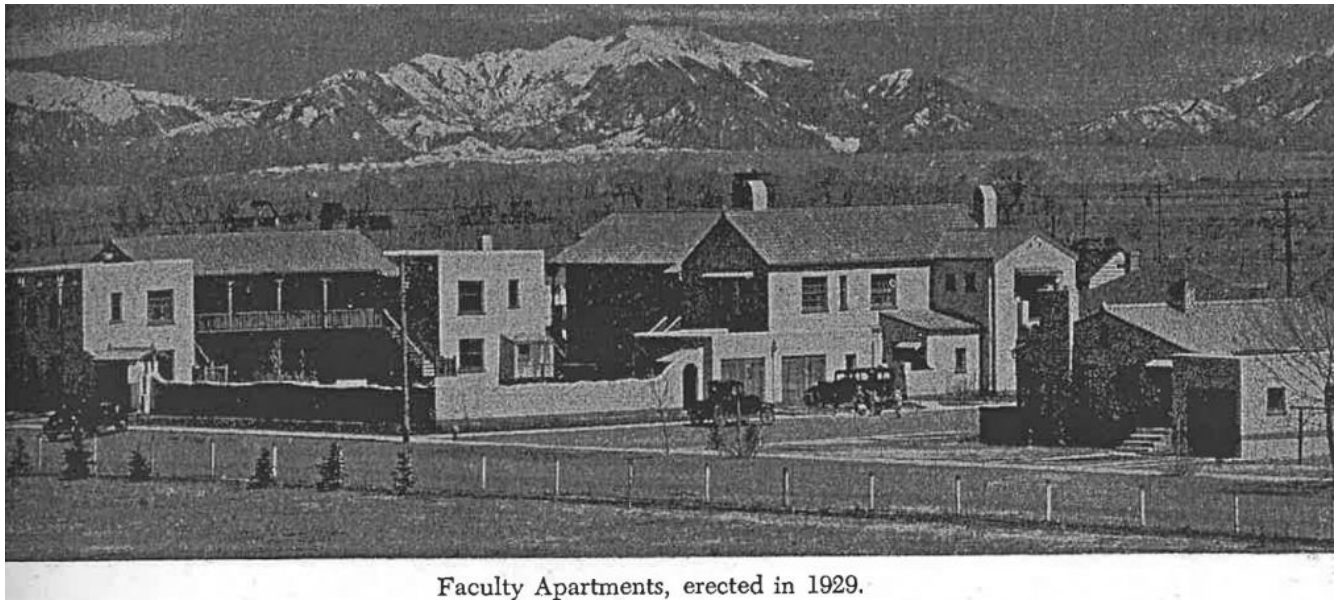


The American Legion Hall, built in 1925, became the Rialto Theater in 1927. The hall and theater were used for school productions, talent shows, vaudeville shows, and other community events. A fire in 2003 damaged the theater portion and had to be removed. The front spaces are now offices and a restaurant. The Rialto's history as a premier community gathering space, along with its eclectic architecture (both craftsman and classically inspired elements), and grand neon sign contribute to downtown Alamosa's identity and sense of place. It represents the social heart of Alamosa.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 17-2005

19 President's Residence, Adams State College (1931-1932)

1415 Second Street



Faculty Apartments, erected in 1929.

Dr. Ira Richardson, the first president of ASU, had a vision of a tight community of faculty and administrators. Part of this vision included the campus as a community, rather than staff and faculty living elsewhere and commuting to campus daily. Denver architect William Norman Bowman designed the president's house and faculty apartments in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, and it was constructed in 1932. This style is expressed in the structure of the president's house through a rusticated stucco exterior, gabled roof with half-barrel roof tiles, exposed brick soldier course and windowsills, and a stucco courtyard wall. Dr. Richardson was passionate about architecture, and wished to honor the Hispanic culture of the San Luis Valley through the structure of campus buildings.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 1-2005

20

Bain's Department Store (1935)

510 Main Street



Joe Bain constructed his department store in 1935 near the end of the Great Depression utilizing salvaged brick, timbers, steel and pressed metal ceilings. It was the first commercial building known to be built in Alamosa after the onset of the Great Depression, signifying the incipient recovery of the Alamosa economy. The Main Street storefront opened first, followed by the Hunt Avenue wing in 1936. Shortly thereafter, Bain began construction on the apartments above his store. When it opened, Bain's Department Store was the largest retail store in the San Luis Valley, selling dry goods from the Main Street storefront, and groceries from the Hunt Avenue storefront. The upstairs remains apartments and the downstairs is a thrift store operated by La Puente Home.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 8-2017, State register in 1995

21 Alamosa Post Office (Blue Peaks Developmental Services) (1935)

704 Fourth Street



The Alamosa Post Office was built in 1935 by the federal government. Many of these New Deal-era federal buildings were built in a similar style. In Colorado, they were a symmetrical building featuring a single-story, a central doorway, elevated ground floor, pedimented stone door flanked by pairs of vertical windows, and a relatively plain facade except for the intricate details above the door. In 1972, the building sold to the San Luis Valley Center for the Handicapped, Inc.(SLVCHI). SLVCHI was a school for people with disabilities, from preschool to adult. The non-profit organization continues today under the name Blue Peaks Developmental Services offering residential and adult day programs, family support services, and case management.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 16-2008

22

Husung Hardware Building (1936)

625 Main Street



The Husung Hardware building was built in 1936 and is notable due to its Art Deco detailing and well preserved terra cotta facade, which is unusual in Colorado. Walter Husung, owner of the building and hardware business, lived in the second floor apartment. Walter purchased the hardware business in 1915 and ran it out of a variety of locations in downtown Alamosa, finally ending up at 625 Main Street. His son Lucian Husung eventually took over the business and operated it downtown until 1995. Both father and son were prominent members of the community. The building is now SpareKeg Brewerks, a brewery and taphouse.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 6-2005

23 Alamosa County Courthouse (1936-38)

702 Fourth Street



The U-shaped complex is one of the Alamosa's best examples of the Mission style. The largest of several Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects built in Alamosa County during the 1930s. Courthouse construction began in 1936 using local clay and sand. The WPA workers produced more than 450,000 bricks at a kiln located north of Alamosa. The county courthouse has relocated to a new space and building has been renovated and is now a regional health center.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 17-2009

24 HobbyTown (1938)

709 Main St





An Invitation

TO ALL ITS FRIENDS and patrons, and especially to those who enjoy beautiful things for the home, Kirkpatricks' extends a cordial invitation to attend OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, January 21, 1939.

KIRKPATRICKS' is proud of its beautiful new home at 709 Main Street, and, now that moving and arranging of stock is completed, wishes to introduce the San Luis Valley's most modern furniture store. Spacious...light...NEW...but we must not attempt to describe it, we want you to SEE it!

Door prizes and entertainment--we hope you will attend

Kirkpatrick Furniture Co.

9 a. m. to 9 p. m., Saturday, January 21

The building was constructed in 1938 was owned by the San Luis Valley Federal Savings and Loan Associations of Alamosa and occupied by Kirkpatrick Furniture Store. The Kirkpatrick Furniture Store was owned and operated by D.W. Kirkpatrick, who also served as an Alamosa County Judge. Since 2019, it has been occupied by HobbyTown USA Alamosa, replacing Lockhart's Furniture Store. The building was designed in the Art Deco style with a clay brick facade of pastel and neutral colors. The interior also includes original tin ceilings. It is one of two art deco style buildings in downtown Alamosa.

Designated Historic by Resolution No.8-2020

25 Rex Gym (Rex Activity Center) (1938-39)

First St/Stadium Avenue



The Rex Gymnasium was built in the Spanish Revival architectural style and was completed in 1939. The “Rex” was constructed in a white stucco style, and remains much the same appearance today as when it was first built. Over time it was utilized for student athletic activities, high school games and dances, and other college and community purposes. A renovation in 1994-95 removed bleachers and divided the interior space into a climbing wall, basketball court, and aerobics room. A notable interior feature original to the building are the locker rooms which allow a visitor to feel like they are transported back to the 1940s.

Designated Historic by Resolution No. 6-2008

26 Tim's Transmission (1945)

723 Main Street



Built in 1945, the property has maintained its historical integrity and continues to exhibit the majority of its original architectural features, the most noteworthy of which are the 4-inch thick tan glazed terracotta tiles which are the primary material of the south facade. In 1945, Mr. Peters, a jeweler, acquired the property. He constructed the commercial building at the northeast corner of the property and operated a jewelry business until 1976. It eventually became Caton's Super Lube and served as the office for the vehicle repair business on the adjacent lot. The property serves the same purpose today but is now called Tim's Transmission.

Designated Historic in 2015