

Roadside Architecture in New Mexico: Commercial/Public Buildings

Laurel Wallace-NMDOT Cultural Resources Bureau-November 2008

As with residences, outside of major metropolitan areas, architectural styles are rarely expressed in pure form, or "high style". Many roadside commercial buildings in New Mexico show modest stylistic influences from national styles (Italianate, Neo Classical/Territorial, Gothic Revival) that appeared after the railroad reached the territory (1879 and later). Many variations on southwest regional styles (Southwest Vernacular, Spanish-Pueblo Revival) continue as popular styles. Automobile use and a sense of progress and development nationally is reflected in national styles from the 1920s-1930s (Art Deco, Streamlined Moderne), and furthered in regional styles from the 1950s and 1960s that developed out of commercial auto-related businesses like diners and coffeehouses in California and the greater West (Googie), which reflected the excitement of space exploration.



Territorial



Gothic Revival



Southwest Vernacular



Spanish-Pueblo Revival

1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960



Italianate



Art Deco



Streamline Moderne



Googie