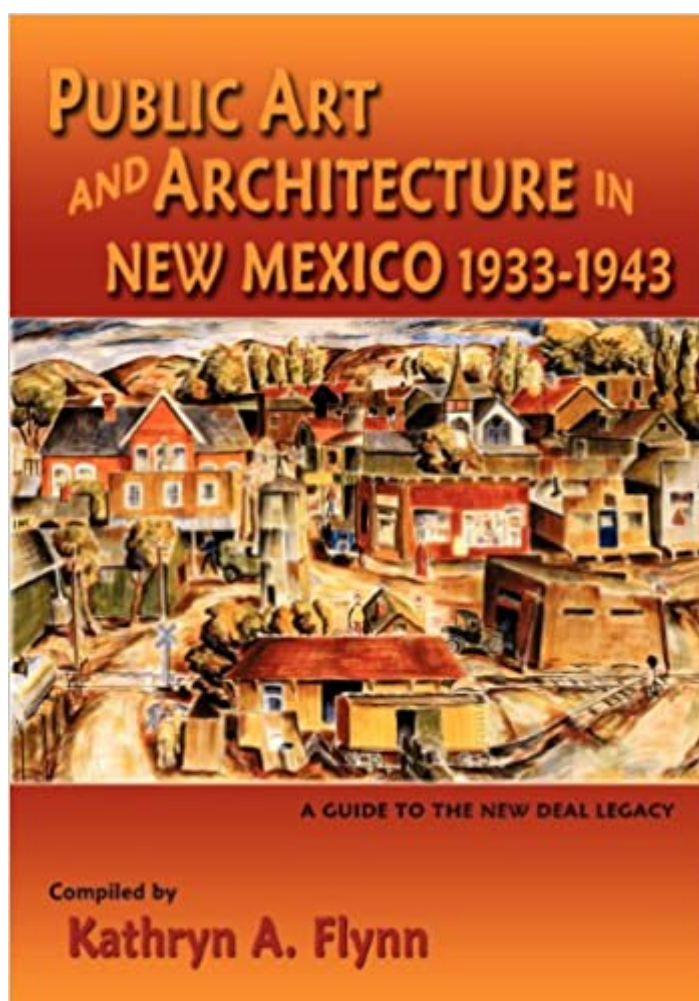


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# Public Art And Architecture In New Mexico, 1933-1943, A Guide To The New Deal Legacy



## Synopsis

Do you like to go treasure hunting in obvious or out of the way places? Do you like to view fine art in galleries large and small? This book will give you directions to New Mexico's amazing New Deal treasures and to buildings and bridges, murals and sculptures, paintings and people who made them. They are not necessarily in the most obvious places, and yet many are in places that one routinely visits. They have been patiently waiting in our cities, our villages, our parks, rarely witnessed as being "treasures." They were constructed perhaps even by your own artistic ancestors. This book is full of clues. Go sleuthing!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This extensive compilation of public art in New Mexico, sponsored by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, locates WPA structures such as fire stations, museum and schools that contain obscure paintings, murals, frescoes, and pottery by some of the finest artists struggling to survive in New Mexico during the Great Depression. | This handsome volume would be a valuable addition to any library."

--Phaedra Greenwood, Enchantment, July 2014

Growing up in Portales, New Mexico, Kathryn Akers Flynn lived in an area with a New Deal courthouse, a New Deal post office, and New Deal schools. She worked at the local swimming pool and partied in the city park, both built during the Depression era. In high school she was a

cheerleader on 1930s football fields for onlookers in Work Progress Administration bleachers and camped out at a nearby Civilian Conservation Corps created park and lake. She never knew any of these structures were fashioned by the New Deal, nor did she notice the New Deal treasures in Salt Lake City while at the University of Utah where she received her Bachelor's Degree or the New Deal structures in Carbondale, Illinois where she earned her Master's Degree at Southern Illinois University. Returning to New Mexico, she had a career in the state health and mental health administration that included directorship of Carrie Tingley Hospital, a New Deal facility with many public art treasures. It wasn't until she became Deputy Secretary of State of New Mexico that she realized what was around her. As a result she went on to edit three editions of the New Mexico Blue Book featuring information about New Deal creations all over the state. This book presents the history and whereabouts of many such treasures found since Flynn compiling an earlier book, Treasures on New Mexico Trails, and another that focuses on New Deal programs nationwide, The New Deal: A 75th Anniversary Celebration. She also assisted with the compilation of A More Abundant Life, New Deal Artists and Public Art in New Mexico by Jacqueline Hofer, also from Sunstone Press and an apt companion for Public Art and Architecture in New Mexico. She was instrumental in creating the National New Deal Preservation Association, and now serves as Executive Director.

For those who visit or live in New Mexico, there are amazing examples of public art to be seen. In many instances, it is right under our noses, yet we don't always know where to look. I travel this state several times a month, yet there is public art I never knew about until I read this book. This book helps reverse this, by informing our understanding of how this art was created, what part it played in New Mexico society 1933 - 1943, and most important, where to find it! While some of the art is held in collections that aren't easily accessible to the general public, much of it is located in (or on!) public buildings, such as courthouses, libraries, and schools. This book is divided into 10 chapters. Most of these are written by the author, while some are contributed by others. Each chapter is easy to read, but it is Chapter one that will lead most people to buy this book. Here, the author lists cities and towns in New Mexico in alphabetical order, telling the reader what is---or in some instances, was---here to see. For my taste, the book could include more photographs or drawings, but what is here will give you a flavor of what you can see. The latter half of the book is devoted to the artists who actually created much of this art, providing us with a biographical sketch. There is also a chapter that lists some of the art that is missing, with references on how to report it, should you know where it is. The book devotes some attention to how and why these projects got

started in the first place, but frankly, that's not the focus. Rather, the book is primarily devoted to who created the art and where you can find it. It's not a 'field guide,' per se, but you will be able to cross-reference cities/towns of interest and find out what you can see there. It's a great book and a vital resource for those wanting to learn more about this important piece of New Mexico history.[...]

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