

TOURS . EVENTS . MODERNISM

SAN MATEO CITIZENS SAVINGS & LOAN BUILDING REOPENING AS A GYM



The vacant former Citizens Building has at last found a tenant to take over its two-story site. **Stretch Strength & Fitness**, working with new non-profit, **the International District Economic Development Center**, recently relocated to this larger space from 816 San Mateo SE.

Built in 1960 as the Citizens Building & Loan Association, the **International-style** structure was designed by architects Kruger, Lake & Henderson. In an archival article about an open house scheduled for the loan business, we can make out color variations in the second floor's tile spandrels which have since been uniformly painted over. In a caption for the photo, the tiles are described as being gold and mirrored in color, selected 'so that the building actually sparkles at night.' On the first-level, located under the cantilevered second story, is a tiled mural depicting elements such as lock and key, deed, and a \$10 dollar bill. The lobby floor was reportedly also once tiled with imported materials. A disused drive-up teller window still exists at the south elevation.

HOFFMANTOWN CHURCH NOMINATED FOR STATE HISTORIC REGISTER



We were pleased to see that a nomination for the former **Hoffmantown Baptist Church** sanctuary will soon be up for review by the New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee. The committee will determine whether to approve the nomination for the state's historic register and whether to forward it on for consideration at the national level.

Like St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, now a site on our summer Hairpin Legs walking tour, the Hoffmantown Baptist Church's congregation grew rapidly in the 1950s and 60s, calling for the addition of a new sanctuary. Architectural firm Kruger, Lake & Henderson was selected for the job. Today, most residents recognize the structure by its open frame, modernist bell tower. Lined with pre-cast concrete columns visible at north and east elevations, as well as colorful mosaic tile over its northern entrance doors, the church was identified as a must-see in **New Mexico Magazine** earlier this year.

The nomination highlights the relative absence of **neo-formalist architecture** in Albuquerque, though there are other



We've been told that the building had been in sporadic use as a filming location, which is true for more than a few of the modern buildings we track. Given that this one is in our very own neighborhood, we're excited to check out its facilities.



buildings that exhibit characteristics that could be read as neo-formalist (such as the **Wells Fargo** bank tower in downtown). Eventually, the Hoffmantown Baptist congregation outgrew their building again and commissioned architects Flatow, Moore, Shaffer & McCabe for the design of a new complex, vacating the campus on Wyoming in 1987. The former Baptist church has been home to God's House Church since 1997.

Architectural details can be read in **the nomination form**. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for August 9th.

Hoffmantown is named for Sam Hoffman, developer of the Hoffmantown Addition to the east of the church. Hoffman hailed from Phoenix Arizona and though he never resided in Albuquerque, his influence is evident in not one, but two neighborhoods, only one which bears his name.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Remember the Civic & 'Led Zeppelin Played Here'

AUGUST 2ND: Join us on the 50th anniversary of **Led Zeppelin's August 2, 1969 concert** at the Albuquerque Civic Auditorium as we celebrate the venue and the band with a one-time-only program held at the Hiland Theater! The night of nostalgia will include a tribute to the auditorium complete with photos and footage from the Albuquerque Museum's archive. It will also mark the first time the documentary, *Led Zeppelin Played Here*, will be shown in Albuquerque!

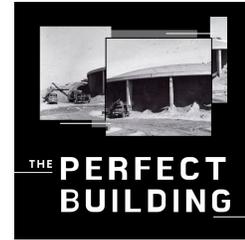
Led Zeppelin Played Here explores the start of the modern rock concert industry, focusing on Led Zeppelin's first month in the US, and a concert mystery: did they play on January 20, 1969 in a suburban Maryland gymnasium, in front of 50 confused teenagers, while President Richard Nixon was celebrating his first inauguration nearby?

"The music doc that gave me the most sheer viewing pleasure this year? Led Zeppelin Played Here. If it comes to your town, go meet it." – Andy Markowitz, musicfilmweb.com

The film, directed by Jeff Krulik (*Heavy Metal Parking Lot*), is not available on DVD or streaming. Tickets are \$20 and available online and at the door that evening while they last. Doors open at 6:30 PM; the program begins at 7:00. *Advance ticket sales include a copy of an illustrated postcard of the Civic Auditorium; all ticket holders will receive a commemorative program.*

CIVIC AUDITORIUM DOCUMENTARY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the campaign! Regrettably, *The Perfect Building* project failed to meet its minimum fundraising goal on Indiegogo. In lieu of a documentary, we will be transitioning our continuing research and resources into a live, multi-media presentation that will take place and be recorded at the Special Collections Library in Albuquerque this fall. Please stay tuned for a date for that free event!



ARCHITECT DON SCHLEGEL'S FORMER HOME FOR SALE



Much can be said of architect **Don Schlegel, FAIA**, who passed away earlier this year; his legacy extends far beyond his designs into the many lives he touched as a professor of architecture at the University of New Mexico and as a friend, mentor, and colleague to generations of Albuquerque architects. His former **home at**

1614 Stanford Drive SE has been listed for sale. It's a home we hope to see purchased by a buyer who recognizes his legacy and appreciates the natural light brought into the space through the renovations he designed.

Schlegel was influential in establishing the University of New Mexico's School of Architecture & Planning and believed that professors should be actively practicing in the profession even while teaching, something he continued to do even after his retirement from the school. Some of you may be familiar with **the 1962 Robb House**, which sold in 2018 after several years on the market. It was designed by Don Schlegel and a project he remained proud of throughout his life. At the time of his death at age 92, he was working with the architectural firm RMKM. As he said to us when we met him in their office, "to see a building go from sketch to reality - there's nothing like it."

UPDATES ALONG HISTORIC ROUTE 66

Have you driven Route 66 lately? You may have spotted cosmetic changes to some of Albuquerque's historic structures. Among them is this update to Loyola's, a local diner that dates to 1958 which has been repainted a color more in keeping with its original look (when it opened as Sherm's under the ownership of Sherman Anderson). Neon signage once existed at the west edge of the folded eave, near the sign post installed to support the Loyola's teacup.



At the 1964 former Goody's located west of Loyola's, the wood panels have been painted and the brick re-clad in a thin stone veneer. An evolution of the restaurant's exterior can be seen below.



Goody's restaurant post-1970 in a postcard from the Nancy Tucker collection. The neon sign was designed and installed by Zeon.



The deserted Desert Fish available for rent in late 2018. The vestibule has been removed and the facade repainted.



The Korean BBQ, Sushi & Sake restaurant, still preparing to open in a photo snapped the weekend of the Route 66 Summerfest.

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