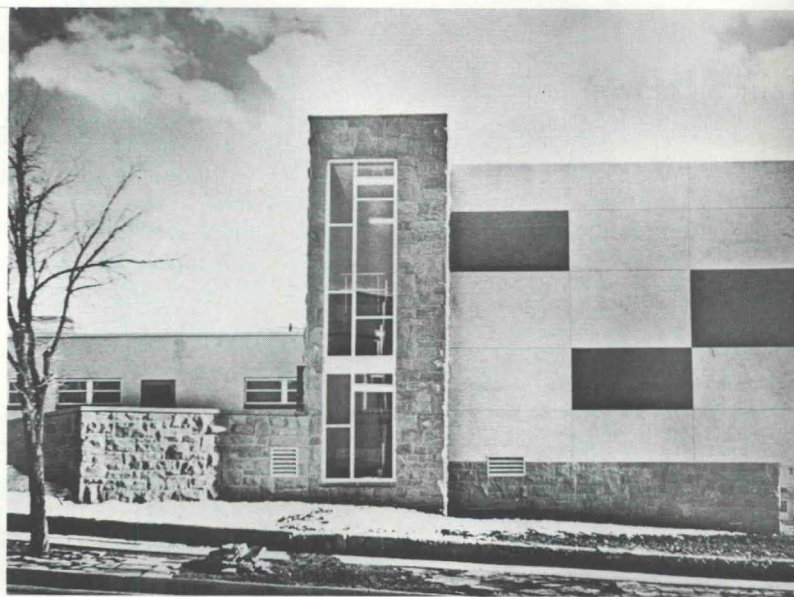




Tatum High School
Tatum, New Mexico
1952

Profile: Smith

Arts & Education Building
Highland University
Las Vegas, New Mexico
1957



Elementary School
Carlsbad, New Mexico
1954

Profile of an Architect:

Kern Smith



Kern Smith, a native of New Mexico, was born in Clovis January 15, 1914. He graduated from the Clovis High School in 1931, at which time an architectural career did not appear to be an objective of his. This was later realized through a series of logical steps that indicated his keen interest in construction and its related fields.

Upon his high school graduation Mr. Smith entered Coyne Electrical School for vocational training. The same year, 1931, he entered San Bernardino Junior College where he studied aeronautical engineering. Still attempting to formulate his ambitions, he left school in 1932 and spent a year working as a cashier for the Fred Harvey system, followed by five years as electrician and diesel mechanic for Railway's Ice Company in Clovis.

With his interests resolved in mechanics, Kern Smith came to Carlsbad in 1939 as an engineering draftsman with International Minerals and Chemical Co. This was during the company's construction of a six million dollar potash mine and refinery. During his five years with International Minerals he gained a vast amount of experience in flow sheet and process design drafting with subsequent design and detail of heavy steel, concrete, and wood structures. This work related to the construction of housing for process equipment such as vibrating screens, vacuum filters, evaporative and rotary drying equipment, belt and chain conveyers, heavy duty rock crushers, centrifugal filters, flotation machines, loading equipment and other equipment used in processing. It also included the design of galleries, office buildings and other related structures. A continuation of this technical experience was achieved when Mr. Smith accepted the position of chief draftsman with Potash Company of America, also in Carlsbad, in 1944.

Well grounded in structural design and 32 years of age Mr. Smith resolved to become an architect. In 1946 he resigned his position as chief draftsman and entered the University of California, and after two years of year 'round study he received his B.A. in Industrial Design. In 1948 he returned to Carlsbad where he was re-employed by the Potash Company of America as construction engineer.

In the fall of 1950 he became a registered architect in New Mexico and opened his of-

fice in Carlsbad the following June. Since that time he has designed banks in Carlsbad, Alamogordo, Socorro, Grants, and Las Vegas, New Mexico. Church designs to his credit are located in Tatum, Carlsbad, Alamogordo, Las Vegas, Artesia and Clovis. Further, he designed schools and gymnasiums in Tatum, Carlsbad, Las Vegas and Hondo, New Mexico, and the dormitories and educational buildings for Highlands University in Las Vegas. His hospital designs can be found in Carlsbad, Alamogordo and Ruidoso. There are many other projects to his credit which emphasize a high point of success during his eight years as a practicing architect. He holds a National Council Certificate of Registration and is registered to practice architecture in New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado.

Mr. Smith's professional interests extend beyond his office by way of having served as secretary of the Carlsbad City Planning Commission, currently Vice Chairman of the New Mexico Board of Architectural Examiners, Director of the New Mexico Chapter AIA and also a member of the American Association of Engineers. He is a member of the Masonic Bodies, the Ballut Abyad Shrine and is past active on the Eddy County Red Cross Board. He is affiliated with the Epworth Methodist Church, having served as chairman of the Board of Stewards and currently a member of the Board of Mission and Church Extension of the New Mexico Conference of Methodist Churches.

Though Mr. Smith's career has been full and varied, there has been a lighter side as noted by his divergent interests. For many years he played trumpet and trombone in a dance band, and for future moments of relaxation he is presently building a mountain cabin near Cloudcroft, New Mexico. For both business and pleasure he pilots his own Cessna 182 airplane, having seven hundred hours flying time to his credit.

Only a few years after graduating from high school Mr. Smith married Erma Dell Melton. They have two children, Jeanine who is 17 and Douglas, now 15.

Although his career is still before him, Kern Smith has built a monument to himself and his profession through the beauty of simplicity, combined with the functional constant.