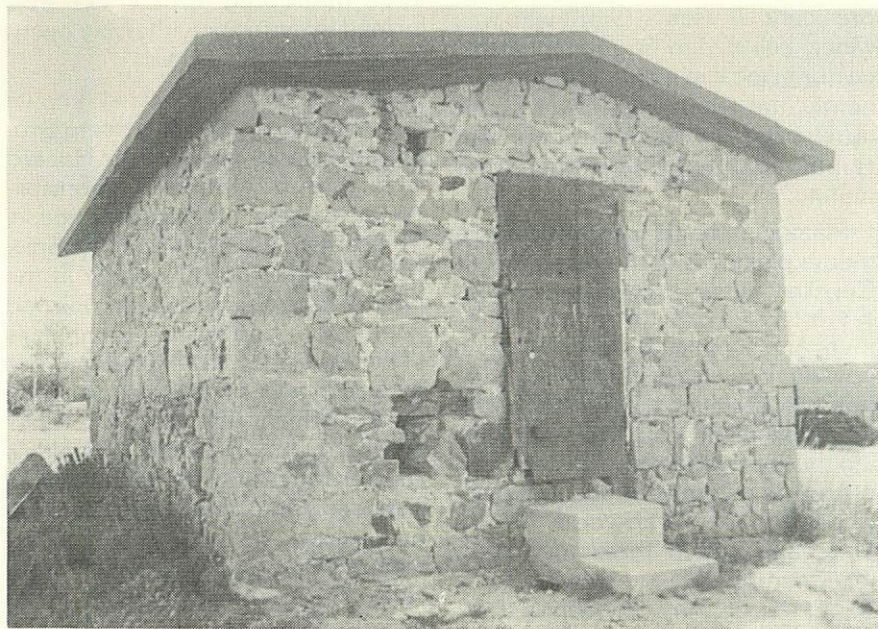


BULLETIN *Hsf*

OF THE HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION

VOL. 10/NO. 1

FEBRUARY 1982



THE POWDER HOUSE

Galisteo Street and Camino de los Marquez

At the beginning of the 1880's many Santa Feans believed that their part of New Mexico was on the verge of a mining boom. Reports of rich gold and silver strikes in the Cerrillos district led to a general feeling that mineral development at Carbonateville, Bonanza City and other camps, now long forgotten, would make the southern part of the county one of the Territory's great mining centers.

On July 8, 1880 the *Daily New Mexican* editorialized as follows:

Upon our mining interests must we depend principally for the ultimate and lasting prosperity of the Territory...while Colorado, the nearest rival of New Mexico, is handicapped by the freezing cold, eternal snows and absence of railroads in her mining districts, this Territory is taking each day more gigantic strides toward becoming the recognized center of

the great Rocky Mountain mineral belt...The Cerrillos Silver Button, the Old and New Placers are the mining districts upon which Santa Fe has to place her dependence and from which we have to hope for renown.

Within a week, enthusiasm reached a fever pitch following an inspection tour at Cerrillos made by former president Ulysses S. Grant who was widely believed to be a potential investor in local mining securities. Evidently, the general left town without purchasing any stock but optimism remained high within the community.

Plaza merchants were well aware that exploitation of the resources at Cerrillos and elsewhere would bring a strong demand for mining equipment and supplies including blasting powder. Because of its unstable composition, stocking that item presented a difficult storage problem. During the spring the *New Mexican* had published an ominous account of an explosion at Deadwood, South Dakota in which three men were killed after carelessly stowing some "giant powder" in a blacksmith shop. The news item ended with the smug comment that "Deadwood is a young city and has a good deal to learn". To prevent similar disasters in Santa Fe, representatives of the aptly named Hazard Powder Company, a Connecticut corporation, sought a suitable location for an explosives repository well away from the center of town. On July 3, 1880 the company purchased from leading businessman James L. Johnson a one acre lot east of the Galisteo road and a mile south of the Plaza. Although the old road has turned into busy Galisteo Street and the location is now part of a residential

neighborhood, in 1880 the only structure nearby was Johnson's slaughterhouse which stood a few hundred yards to the west. Using rough dressed, native sandstone, local masons constructed a small pitch-roofed building suitable for storing powder. A heavy wooden door reinforced with sheet iron formed the entrance, the only opening in the 18" thick walls.

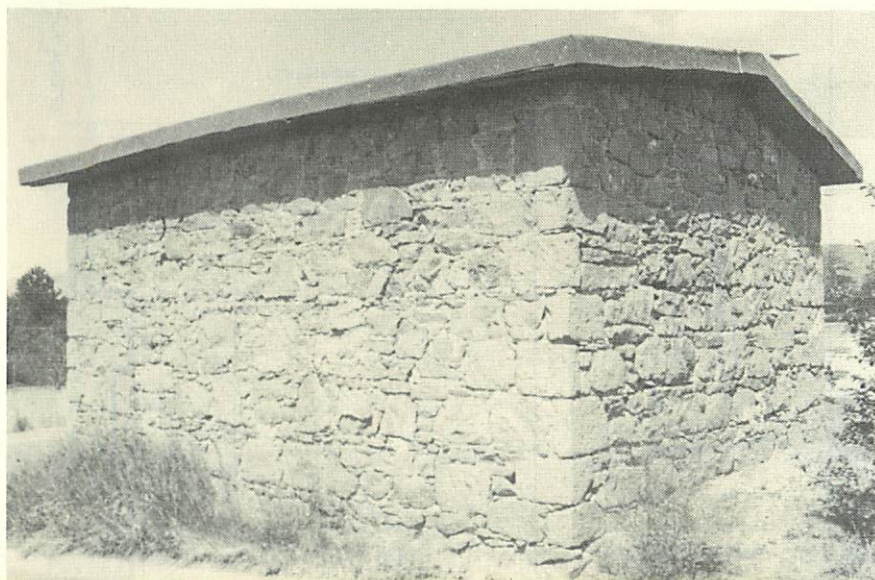
One of Santa Fe's best known mercantile houses, Spiegelberg Brothers, acted as agent for the Hazard Company and assumed responsibility for managing the powder house. To promote their new line, the Spiegelbergs advertised regularly in the *New Mexican* informing railroad contractors and mining companies of their low prices on explosives. The ad was squeezed into a full column display which also featured other popular items including Arbuckle's Ariosa Coffee and Tin Tag Chewing Tobacco. One of the Brothers, Levi Spiegelberg, had enough faith in the minerals industry to establish a so-called "Mining Bureau" in the firm's offices on the Plaza in 1880. Its purpose was to serve as an exchange for trading leases, shares of stock and other mining properties.

As part of a corporate reorganization, the Hazard Company transferred title to the powder house to a subsidiary of E.I. Dupont de Nemours Company in 1909. For the next 30 years the chemical and explosives giant retained ownership of the building while local hardware dealers looked after its operation. In 1939 the property was purchased by a Santa Fe mining man, Joseph Byrne, who also owned a trucking company and a petroleum distribution business.

Subsequently the Church of Latter Day Saints acquired the little building and, later, conveyed it to its present owner, the Unitarian Church of Santa Fe. At various times the powder house has been threatened

with destruction but, fortunately, it remains today to recall the boundless optimism which characterized the hardy miners of New Mexico's frontier.

— John Baxter



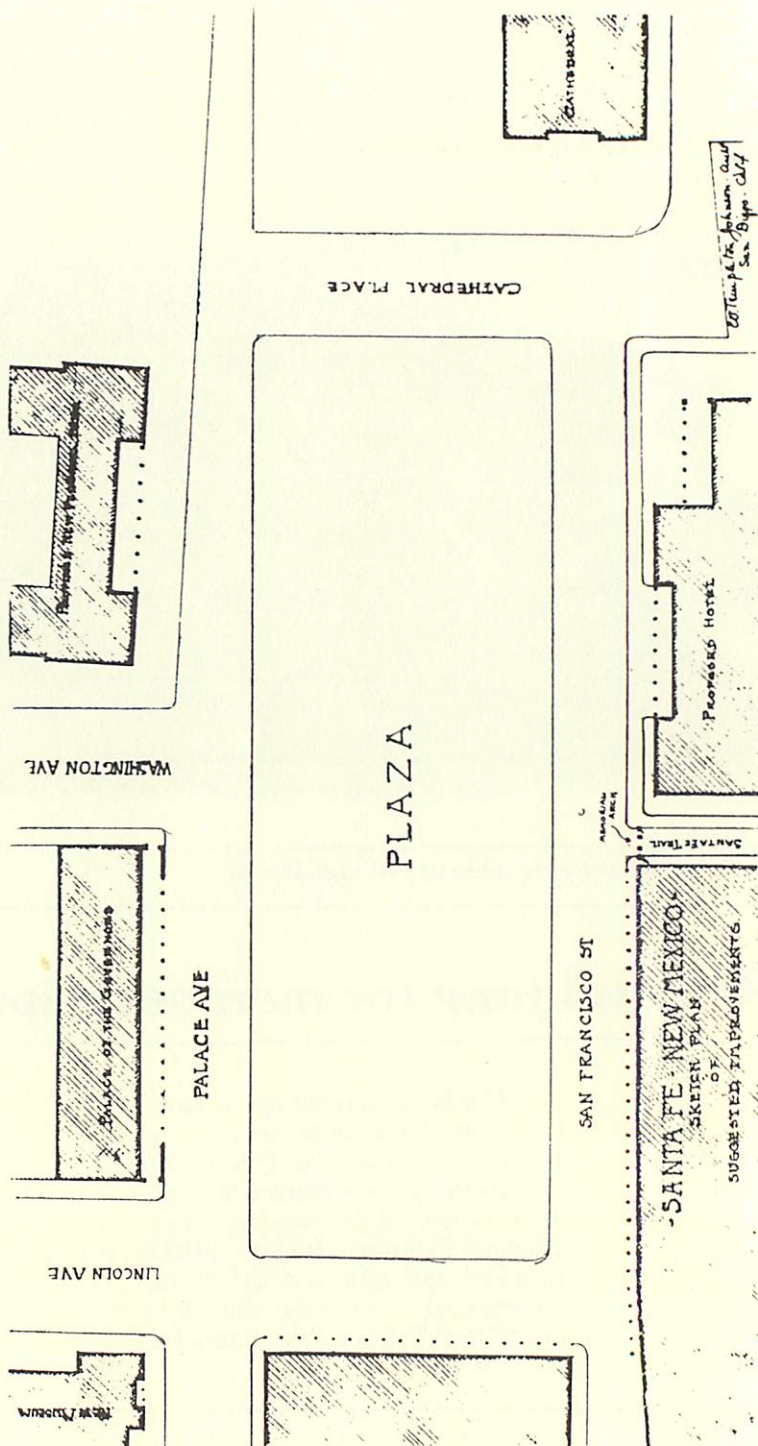
Galisteo Street side view of Powder House

Renewal time for memberships

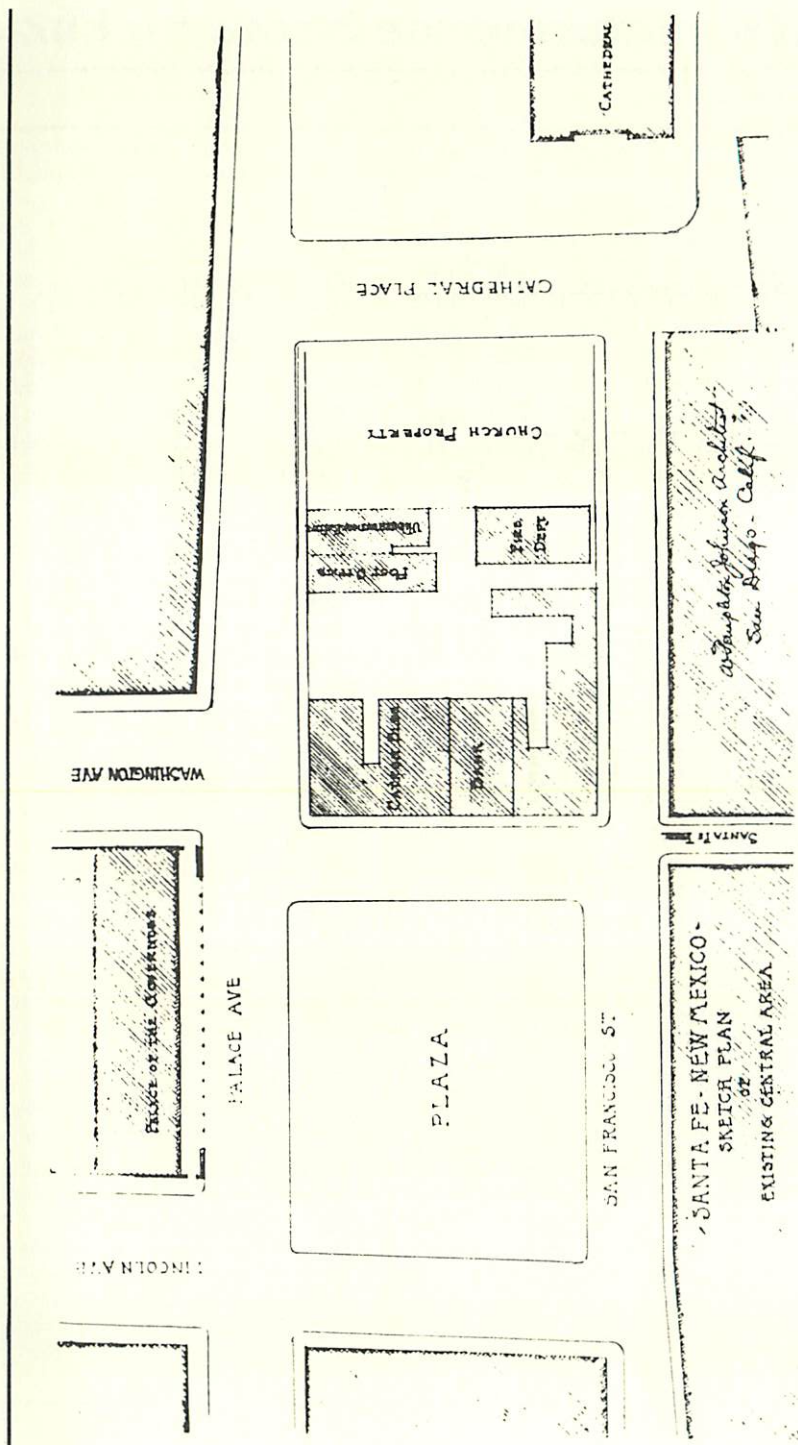
This is just a reminder to those of you who have not yet sent in your renewal for 1982. The Foundation appreciates your continued financial support toward its many activities. Dues are \$6.00 for individuals, \$10.00 husband and wife, and \$15.00 for commercial. You may mail your check to P.O. Box 2535, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501.

Restructuring the Santa Fe Plaza

Story on page 6.



The Plaza at Santa Fe as it should be.



The Plaza of Santa Fe as it is today.

Restructuring the Santa Fe Plaza:

A 1916 Plan

From the time the U.S. Army arrived in New Mexico Territory in 1846 until several years after the turn of the century, all thoughts of architecture and town planning in Santa Fe were in favor of the new styles which followed the army and other Anglos and especially, after 1879, the railroad. Starting about 1909 or 1910, however, a few people began to have second thoughts about phasing out the foreign flavor of the city in favor of the latest (though out-dated in the East) fashions that came down the rails.

By the spring of 1916 several things had happened. There had been a "New-Old Santa Fe Exhibition" in 1912 with maps, models and photographs of what the city had been and could be again, a Spanish-Pueblo style building representing New Mexico at the Panama-California Exhibition in 1915, and several articles had appeared explaining and advocating a return to—if not what Santa Fe had been originally, at least what some thought it should have been. In its April, 1916, issue, *El Palacio* carried a story, "The Santa Fe of the Future," by one of the revival's supporters, Wm. Templeton Johnson, in which he made suggestions that would enhance the tourist attraction of the city. These included the planting of trees, and a swimming pool with bath house along the Santa Fe River, but most important was his plan for "restoring the plaza to the original dimensions shown on the British Museum map preserved in the Old Palace."

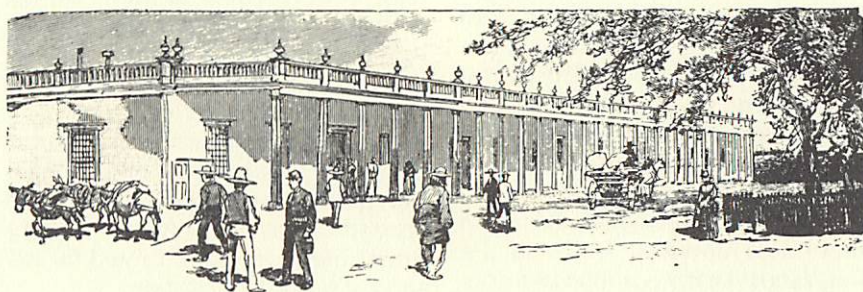
"What would immensely enhance the attraction of the town would be to restore the plaza to the original dimensions shown on the British Museum map preserved in the Old Palace. The typical arrangement of the Spanish-American city is to have the ecclesiastical building at the east side of the plaza, the government structures on the north, the military on the west, and the business buildings on the south. With the destruction of the buildings to the east of the plaza as it now is and its restoration to its original dimensions, it would appear very much like the public squares of many of the Mexican and Central American cities, and it would be unique in the United States. The Cathedral would have its proper place at the east end dominating the square with its central portal on the axis of San Francisco Street, instead of tucked off to one side as it now is. A new Federal building, designed in the 'Santa Fe' style of architecture and placed at the northeast corner of the plaza, would harmonize well with the simple lines of the Old Palace and the great width of Palace Avenue at that point would bring into the group the towers and balconies of the new Museum building. The west and south sides of the plaza could be treated as they formerly were with portales. The roofs of these portales could be fitted with prism glass, thus securing ample light for the shops. A new tourist hotel as complete and characteristic of the country as the fascinating little Ortiz at Lamy could be very fittingly erected on the site of the old Fonda, and as a crowning feature the old Santa Fe Trail, the end of which would now be at the very middle of the south side of the plaza,

might be commemorated with a memorial gateway, a fitting termination for one of the most historic highways in the United States.

The cost of acquiring the land in enlarging the plaza would not be prohibitive. It is possible the Church authorities would donate their ownership in the block for park purposes, in that the Cathedral would gain immeasurably in dignity by the change. The other buildings in the block, with two exceptions are of

nominal value and these could be moved to other sites."

Johnson urged that the plan be implemented immediately for, as he said, "never again can it be done so cheaply." Of course the idea was not carried out, but Santa Feans can look at the plaza and picture how it might have been, extending from Lincoln Avenue all the way up to the Cathedral.



Palace (center) in the 1890's in territorial style. (Harper's Weekly, July 19, 1890.)

Volunteers for Membership Drive

Dorothy Alvord
Patt Berardinelli
Rick Berardinelli
Lina Borthick
Mary Brennan
Jean Buchanan
Jean Buchanan
James Cartwright
Rene Clayton
Mary Gilliland
Katy Hadley
Mary Jo Hallock
Jean Hurd

Louann Jordan
Eva Larragoite
Marcia Logsdon
Agnesa Lufkin
Maryfrances Mackel
Elsie & Andrew Michaels
Irma Miller
Edward & Shirley Ortega
Helen Perry
Charlotte Trego
Sue Watkins
Charlotte White

Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting of the membership of The Historic Santa Fe Foundation, held on January 7, 1982 at Sweeney Convention Center, Don Van Soelen, chairman of the Board of Directors, cited the major achievements of the Foundation in 1981 including the defeat of House Bill 483 which would have appropriated money to buy the Tudesqui Gardens between the Supreme Court and the Land Office for a parking lot. Also rescued from razing were the Wood House at 511 Armijo and a house at 300 Otero. The Borrego House and the Wood House were plaqued in 1981. The HSFF and Old Santa Fe Association jointly filed a lawsuit to prevent construction of a massive building on Grant and Johnson (next to the Tully House) incorporating two non-conforming structures. Mr. Van Soelen concluded his report with the announcement that the Board passed a resolution stating that: "The Board of the HSFF resolves that it does not contemplate the sale of any of its property."

Mrs. Jordie Chilson reported that the Foundation gained 235 new members for a total 1981 membership of 704. The Tully House was the

only property which required a major expense, for the replacement of its entire water pipe system. The publications chairman announced that the next issue of the *Bulletin* will be published by the New Mexico Education Association Press and that the third edition of *Old Santa Fe Today* should be published this spring.

The business meeting concluded with the election of new Board members. Saul Cohen was elected to his first three year term. Agnesa Lufkin and George Ewing, who were serving unexpired terms, were elected to their first terms. Constant Chapman, Ken Bateman and A.B. Martinez were elected to their second terms. Jim Adler, retiring Board member, was thanked for his service to the Foundation.

Board member and historian, Agnesa Lufkin, spoke on "Melvin Mills, Frontier Lawyer". Mr. Mills, a controversial figure in New Mexico politics, was elected to the territorial legislature in 1875. He helped to found Springer, NM, where he settled in a three-story, 32 room mansion incorporating elements of Mansard, Queen Anne and Territorial styles.

Palace of Governors pictures are from "New Mexico in the 19th Century, A Pictorial History" by Andrew K. Gregg. Published by The University of New Mexico Press, 1968.

1981 Santa Fe Traditional Christmas Lighting Contest Winners

Eastside:

First	Charles Olmstead 659 East Garcia
Second	Boy Scout Troop #29 Michael Weber, Scoutmaster 620 Paseo de la Cuma
Third	Leopoldo Brito 1157 Cerro Gordo
Honorable Mention	R.C. Heideman #1 Thunder Ridge
Honorable Mention	Abe Rodriquez 1342 Canyon Road
Honorable Mention, Small Houses	Ralph Melbourne 251 Camino de la Sierra
Group	David Batts & Friends #2 Plaza Fatima

Westside:

First	Charles-David Interiors 1002 Old Pecos Trail
Second	Berardinelli Mortuary 1399 Luisa Street
Third	Karen S. James 1110 South Luna Circle
Honorable Mention	Don Garcia 2514 Camino Cabestro
Group	Park Plaza Homeowner's Assoc. Rodeo Road

Commercial Members — 1981

These merchants support historic preservation

Alpine Builders Supply	Janus Gallery
Auto Trading Post	Kaune's Food Town
Avis	Kegel, McCabe & Montez
Bank of Santa Fe	Kelly Agency
Barker Buildings, Inc.	La Esquina Antiques
Herman G. Barkmann, PE	Lafayette Electronics
Big Jo Lumber	La Imprenta
Bishop's Lodge	La Posada de Santa Fe
Blue Chip Insurance	La Posada Gift Shop
The Camera Shop	La Tierra, Ltd.
The Candyman	Marco Polo Shop
Card and Party Shop	Margolis & Moss
Charles-David Interiors	Memorial Chapel
Chavez Fine Jewelers	Mr. D
The Cheese Board	The Montecristi Custom Hat Works
The Cody Gallery	Monte Sol Realtors
Colonial New Mexico Historical Foundation	Montgomery & Andrews, PA
Cooper's	Montgomery Ward
Corporacion de La Fonda	Mountain Wolf Agency
Cutlery of Santa Fe	Allen McNown, Architect
Davis and Associates	Nan's Toy Boutique
De Vargas Center	New Mexico Savings and Loan
Doodlet's	Noon Whistle
Dressman's	Overland Sheepskin Company
The Eagle Dancer	Packard's Indian Trading Post
El Rey Motel	The Papermill Press
Empire Builders Supply	Park's Nursery
Enthios Gallery	Parrot Fabrics
ERA, The Territorial Agency	Pasqual's
First National Bank of Santa Fe	Payne's Exxon
The Flower Nook	Peat, Marwick, Mitchell
Robert E. Fox, Attorney at Law	The Pink Adobe
Frontier Frame	Public Service Company
Garrett's Desert Inn	Quinn & Company
Gerber and Ives	Rancho Encantado
The Golden Bough	Rob & Charlie's
Grubestic Associates	Rotary Club of Santa Fe
The Guarantee	Rothstein, Bailey & Unna
Hansen Gallery	James H. Russell Agency
Healy-Matthews Stationers	The Santa Fean Magazine
Indian Traders West	The Santa Fe Bookseller
	Santa Fe Center of Audiology

Santa Fe Fiesta Council
Santa Fe Glass & Mirror
Santa Fe Hilton Inn
Santa Fe National Bank
Sauter-Lincoln Mercury
Shana Gunn, Inc., Interior Design
The Shed
Shop of the Rainbow Man
Sign of the Pampered Maiden
Stage Coach Motor Inn
Stiha Gallery
Streets of Taos Gallery

Sun Country Traders
Tiny's Restaurant
Touch of Love Gallery
Travel Service Everywhere
Unicorn Antiques
Vassilou Fur Gallery
Vitality Unlimited
White Swan Linen
The Winery
Wirtco, Inc.
Zonta Club of Santa Fe

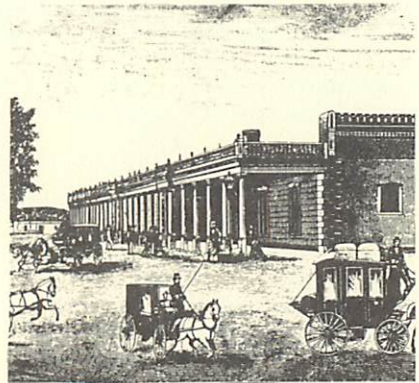
New faces

Board Member

Saul Cohen is an attorney with the firm of Sutin, Thayer & Browne. He was born in Los Angeles in 1927 and is a graduate of U.C.L.A. and Stanford Law School. Having fallen under the spell of the land of enchantment, he, his wife Anne-Lise (who has a Ph. D. in medieval French), and their three children, moved to Santa Fe in 1970. In addition to chairmanship of the Old Santa Fe Association for three years and three years as co-chairman of the St. John's College Annual Fund Drive, he is a past or present member of the board of trustees of various organizations, including the Santa Fe Public Library, Friends of the Santa Fe Public Library, Festival of the Arts, St. John's College Library Associates, Museum of New Mexico Foundation, Santa Fe Concert Association, Santa Fe Prep School, Guadalupe Historic Foundation and Santa Fe Animal Shelter. He has published over 30 articles on a wide variety of subjects.

Executive Secretary

Claudia Porter grew up in Las Cruces where she graduated from NMSU. After working toward an advanced degree in California, Claudia and her husband moved to Santa Fe in 1975. She will graduate from St. John's College in August 1982 with a Masters in Liberal Arts.



This view of Santa Fe makes it appear very populous. Design of the Palace of Governors shows brickwork front. (Thayer, 1888.)