

# Bulletin ...

*The  
Historic*

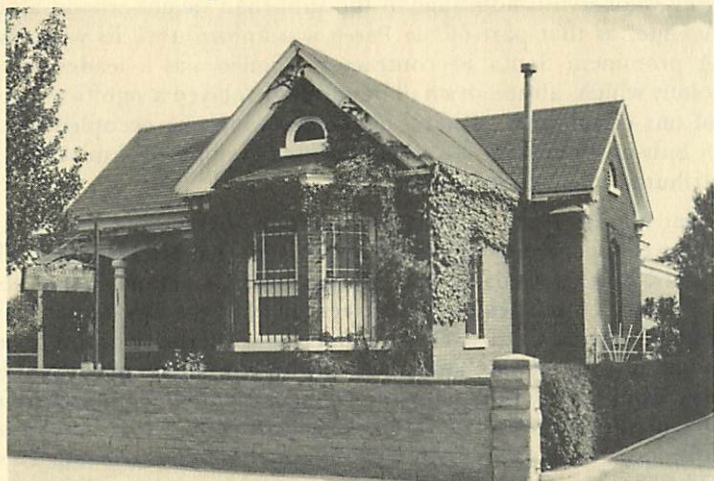


*Santa Fe  
Foundation*

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No. 2



*The Digneo-Valdes House - 1231 Paseo de Peralta*



*The Digneo-Moore House — 1233 Paseo de Peralta*

*Tom Thomas photos, Cultural Properties Review Committee — Historic Preservation Office Photo Files, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico.*

## The Digneo-Valdes House

1231 Paseo de Peralta

## The Digneo-Moore House

1233 Paseo de Peralta

On the south side of Paseo de Peralta just across from the New Mexico State Capitol stand two handsome brick houses, the former residences of Carlo Digneo. In excellent condition and showing superior craftsmanship throughout, they are interesting examples of turn-of-the-century architecture. Without doubt, they were stylish additions to the suburban neighborhood along Manhattan Avenue, as that part of the Paseo was known until its widening in the 1960's. A prominent Santa Fe contractor, Digneo was a leader of the local Italian colony which, although small in numbers, played a significant role in the growth of our community. Today, his houses which he occupied successively, recall not only an important era in Santa Fe's development but several families who contributed much to its history.

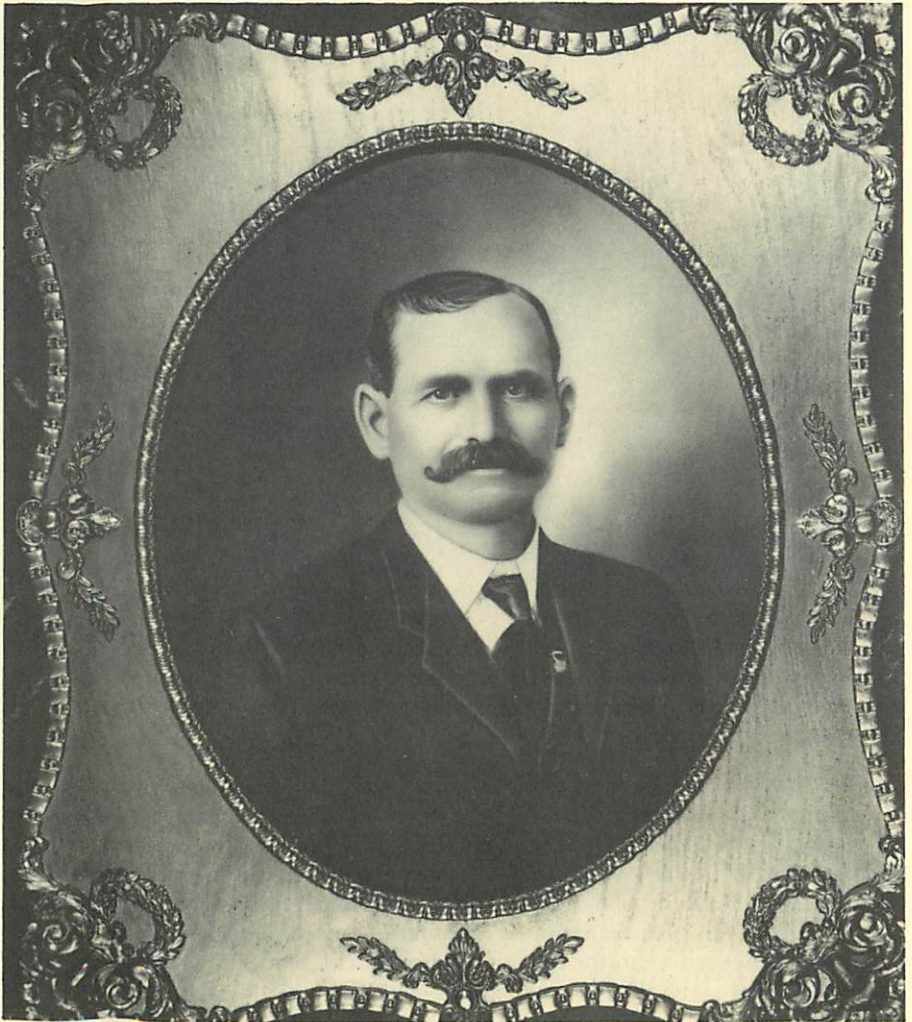
Born near Naples April 4, 1854 to Guiseppe Digneo and Teresa Corlochi, Carlo Digneo came to Santa Fe in 1880 with his brother Michelangelo. Here they joined a third brother Genaro, and brother-in-law Gaetano Palladino, skilled masons and stone cutters who had been recruited in the East to hasten the construction of St. Francis Cathedral. Although the cornerstone of this great edifice had been laid in 1869, it had been plagued with chronic financial problems and was still far from completion when the Digneos came. Soon augmented by the arrival of Palladino's son-in-law, Michele Berardinelli, also a builder and contractor, the local Italians seem to have adapted rapidly to Santa Fe's diverse culture. The Digneos and their relatives formed various partnerships which were responsible for erecting many residences and public buildings throughout New Mexico and at a few locations in Colorado and west Texas.

In addition to the Cathedral, Carlo Digneo also participated in the construction of the masonry dam which impounded the town's first municipal water supply. Built in Santa Fe Canyon in 1881, the project caused a raging controversy among those citizens who feared the loss of traditional water rights, a clear demonstration of how little things have changed in the last 100 years. Five years later Digneo assisted Palladino and Berardinelli in constructing the Bernalillo County Court House just south of Albuquerque's "Old Town" plaza, a building since razed. In 1892 following the passage of necessary authorization by the Territorial Legislature, Carlo Digneo and Gaetano Palladino were awarded the primary contract for Hodgin Hall, the first building on the University of New Mexico campus. At the same time, Michele Berardinelli was engaged in erecting its counterpart at the New Mexico School of Mines in Socorro. Digneo also built Santa Fe's First Ward School, the attractive brick structure at Canyon Road and Garcia Street until recently occupied by the Wilson Gallery.

In 1889 Digneo erected his first residence at 132 East Manhattan Avenue, now 1231 Paseo de Peralta. He had purchased the lot two years earlier, from Berardinelli who, in turn, had bought it from Dorotea Archibeque for \$166.70. Made of locally hand moulded brick the house originally consisted of four rooms resting on a sandstone foundation and was topped by a cross gabled roof with corbeled brick chimneys. With its large bay window and Eastlake porch it was

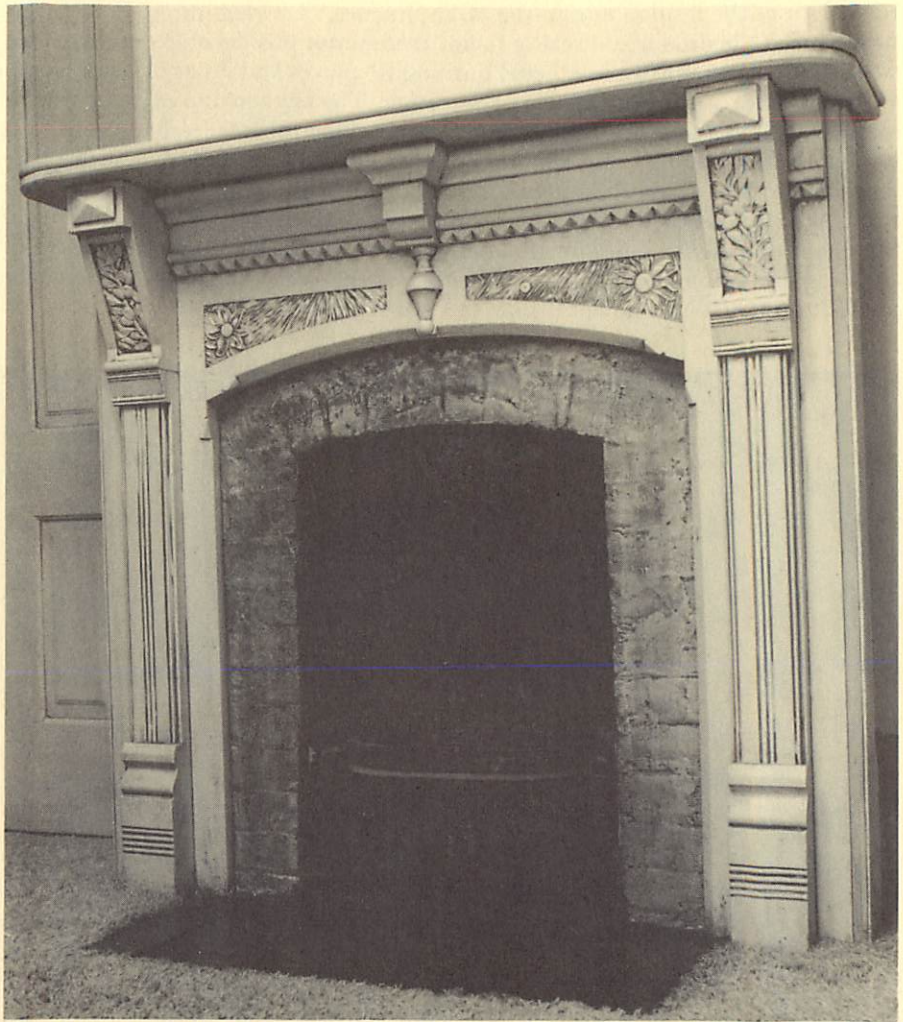


the height of the fashion during the "Gay Nineties." Divided into parlor, dining room, master bedroom and sitting room, the interior was decorated with carved wooden mantles over two small coal burning fireplaces and other detailed wood-work characteristic of 19th century decoration. The kitchen and extra bedrooms were in the basement until the first addition, which included a bathroom, was added to the building's south end soon after 1900. Here, Digneo and his wife Angela Damiani established their home and raised their family of six children until Angela's death in 1896. As the younger Digneos established families of their own they built houses for themselves near their father's. Among those still standing are the brick cottage at the corner of the Paseo and Weber Street and another at 512 Weber which is now covered with stucco.



*Carlo Digneo*

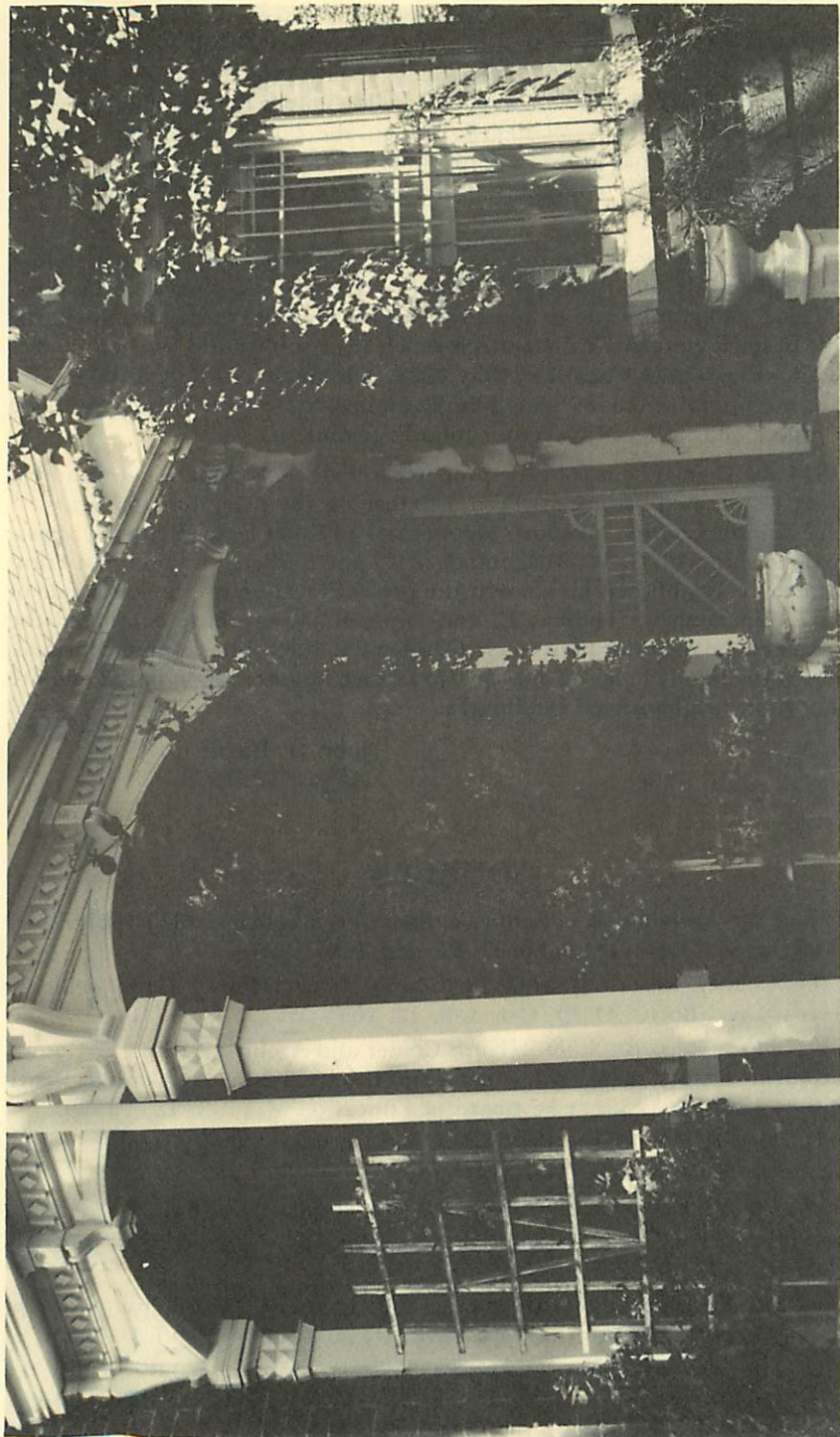
*Photo courtesy of Mr. Ralph J. Digneo, Santa Fe, N.M.*



***Fireplace detail, Digneo-Valdes House, Tom Thomas photo, Cultural Properties Review Committee / Historic Preservation Office Photo Files. State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, N.M.***

Nine years after the death of his first wife, Digneo married Magdalena Delgado, a daughter of Felipe B. Delgado, one of Santa Fe's most prominent merchants and businessmen. Three children were born to this union. Delgado's residence at 124 West Palace Avenue, one of the finest examples of Territorial architecture remaining in Santa Fe, was one of the first structures singled out for recognition by the Historic Santa Fe Foundation and has displayed its plaque for many years. According to the documentation in *Old Santa Fe Today* its foundation "... was laid by masons who had helped to build St. Francis Cathedral . . .," an interesting connection. In 1911 Carlo moved his wife and children into a new 2½ story brick house just west of his older home which he conveyed to his niece Melinda Digneo de Valdes and her husband Felipe Valdes.





*Front entrance, Digneo-Valdes House, Tom Thomas photo, Cultural Properties Review Committee / Historic Preservation Office Photo Files, State Records Center and Archives. Santa Fe, N.M.*

A son of Manuel Valdes, Santa Fe's second mayor, Valdes was a rancher with extensive holdings in the Corona area of central New Mexico and, later, on Cow Creek in the upper Pecos Valley. The Valdes family kept the house until 1960 when it was transferred to their daughter Lydia Valdes Stump who sold it in 1971 to Santa Fe attorney Walter R. Kegel, the building's present owner. Although Mr. Kegel has converted the house into offices and extended the building's south end, his rehabilitation has preserved the original 19th century atmosphere.

Now covered by a heavy mat of Virginia creeper and shaded by a tremendous poplar, Digneo's second residence is larger and more imposing than his first. Embellished with granite quoins and covered with a pressed metal roof it is a fine example of the dignity and conservatism which typify pre World War I architecture. Following Digneo's death in May 1928, the house was rented for several years, its most notable tenant being John F. Simms, Sr., a New Mexico Supreme Court Justice and father of Governor John F. Simms, Jr.

In 1934 the Digneo heirs sold the property to Everett P. Moore, a prominent merchant whose men's store has been a fixture on the plaza for fifty years. A native of Monroe County, Missouri, Moore came to Santa Fe in 1919 and, after a brief partnership with C. W. McClintock in a haberdashery on lower San Francisco Street, he established his store at the present location on the south side of the plaza. His nephews Thomas L. and James R. Moore have continued the business since the death of their uncle October 24, 1969. Mrs. Moore continues to reside in the family home. Thus the two Digneo houses remain in use and are still important neighborhood landmarks.

John O. Baxter  
August 17, 1978

## SOURCES

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- Bunting, Bainbridge and Joe McKinney. "Hodgin Hall," form prepared for National Register of Historic Places, State Records Center and Archives.
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- The New Mexican*, October 21, 1880, June 7, 1881, July 9, 1881, May 19, 1928, October 24, 1969, December 29, 1974.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A member of the Historic Research Committee of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation for the past few years, John O. Baxter was recently appointed to its Board of Directors. Mr. Baxter is a ten-year resident of Santa Fe, having lived in Colorado and Montana for a number of years, working during that time in the livestock business. A history major in school, Mr. Baxter has only recently turned an avocation into a career through his work with the Historic Preservation Program of the State. This work involves him in research into the historic and architectural background of many old Santa Fe buildings in order to determine whether these buildings are of significant note to warrant nomination for the Historic Register. In addition to writing the current article on the Digneo Houses, Mr. Baxter was also the author of an article on the Second Ward School, published previously.

## SECOND HISTORIC HOME TOUR SCHEDULED

The second historic home tour of 1978 will be held on Sunday, November 19 from one to five p.m. at the De la Pena House at 831 El Caminito. This will be an opportunity to see a house that has not been open to the public for many years. Although it was eligible for plaquing by the former owners, it will be plaqued formally, and for the first time, at the open house. The original 1845 east portal, which contains a shepherd's bed, is now an enclosed room, and some of the walls are three feet thick in the four original rooms, two of which are combined in the present living room. El Caminito is the first street south of the Acequia Madre-Camino Del Monte Sol intersection. Foundation notecards and *Old Santa Fe Today* will be on sale at the open house.

## Terms to Know in Historic Santa Fe

*alcalde* A municipal official during the Mexican period with authority similar to a justice of the peace.

*cienea* Area of springs; marshy region.

*molina* Mill.

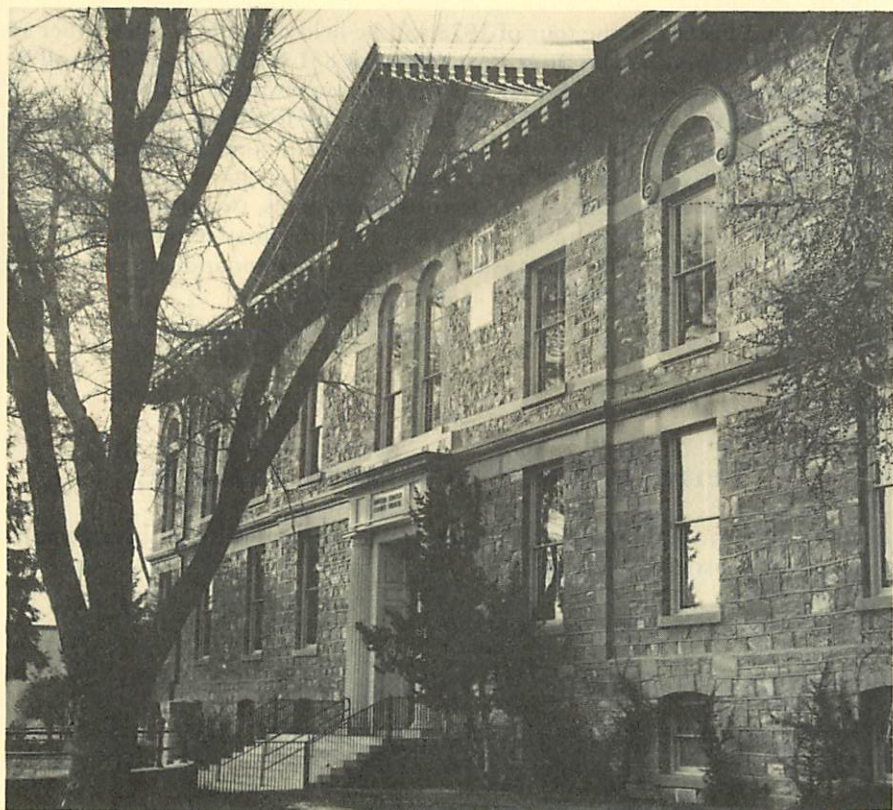
*vara* Measure of distance of approximately 33 inches.

*Old Santa Fe Today*  
University of New Mexico Press  
and The Historic Santa Fe Foundation

## Old Santa Fe . . . Yesterday and Today



*The United States Court House c. 1900, Sylvia Loomis Collection, State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, N.M.*



*The United States Court House Today  
Reprinted from Old Santa Fe Today, 1972.*



## THE HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation depends on the support of its volunteers. There are several activities in which members can participate, including working at the Loretto Chapel, canvassing for new members, mailing out notices and bulletins, and acting as host or hostess at the Foundation's historic home tours. If you would be able to donate at least one day a month to one or more of these activities, please fill out the form below and return it to The Historic Santa Fe Foundation, P.O. Box 2535, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in doing the following volunteer work for The Historic Santa Fe Foundation:

\_\_\_\_\_ Loretto Chapel  
(Tuesdays and Wednesdays, morning or afternoon)

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership Drive - Canvassing  
(flexible)

\_\_\_\_\_ Clerical or Office  
(weekday mornings)

\_\_\_\_\_ Host or Hostess for Historic Home Tours  
(as scheduled)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (suggestions are welcome)

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## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SOUGHT

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation is presently accepting applications for the position of Executive Secretary. Persons interested should send a brief resumé to:

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation  
P.O. Box 2535  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

The responsibilities of this position include general office management, some bookkeeping and secretarial duties. The schedule will consist of five half-days per week and the salary is negotiable. So if you are a Santa Fean interested in preserving Santa Fe's rich past and at the same time earning a salary, please contact the Foundation. This position has to be filled by the end of September.

# 1978 COMMERCIAL MEMBERS

- Acoma Animal Hospital  
Alpine Builders Supply  
Antique Shop of Don J. Madtson  
Artisan/Santa Fe  
Artesanos Imports Company  
Auto Trading Post  
Avis Rent A Car  
  
Bank of Santa Fe  
Barker Realty, Inc.  
Barkmann Engineering  
Bell's Department Store  
Berardinelli Mortuary  
Bicycle World  
Big Jo Lumber Company  
Blocks Mortuary  
Bobcat Bite  
Book World #5  
Book World #6  
Buffalo Hunter  
Bull Ring  
  
Camera Shop  
Campbell, Bingaman & Black  
Capital Bank  
Car-Poration  
Card & Party Shop  
Cartwright Hardware  
Casablanca  
Case & Crystal  
Walton Chapman Builders  
Chavez Jewelers  
City Different Furniture  
Clarke-Benton Gallery  
Colonial N.M. Historical Foundation  
Consuela Imports  
Contemporary Craftsman  
Cooper's Inc.  
Coronado Optical Lab.  
Corporacion de La Fonda  
Cutlery of Santa Fe, Ltd.  
  
Davis & Associates, Inc.  
DeArco Enterprises  
Delores Restaurant  
DeVargas Center  
Dewey-Kofron Gallery  
Dili Deli, Inc.  
  
Doodlets  
Dressman's on the Plaza  
Durham Cadillac  
Durr's Office Machines  
W. S. Dutton, Rare Things  
  
Eldorado at Santa Fe  
Ellis Associates  
El Rey Motel  
Enthios  
  
Faces  
Field Contemporary  
First National Bank of Santa Fe  
First Northern Savings & Loan Assoc.  
Flor-Al, Inc.  
Flores de Santa Fe  
Flower Nook  
Four Winds Enterprises  
Frame Company  
Frank's Lounge  
Fred's Texaco  
Joe Friday's Mobil  
Frontier Frames  
Furr's Inc.  
  
G & C Drugs  
Gallery Americana  
Garrett's Desert Inn  
Golden Bough  
Gonzales & Friends Gallery  
Goodthings Unlimited  
Grand Central Station  
Green Onion  
Grubestic Assoc. Realtors  
Guarantee, Inc.  
  
Hansen Gallery  
Health Food Shops  
Healy-Matthews Stationers, Inc  
Hill's Gallery of Contemporary Art  
Honeybear Toys  
House & Table  
Dick Hughes Volkswagon  
  
Inn at Loretto  
Inn of the Governors  
Interior Systems, Ltd  
Jasper & Buell, Attorneys



Kahn's Shoe Store  
Kaune Corporation  
Kelly Agency, Inc  
La Casita de Tesoros  
Ladybug  
La Esquina Antiques  
La Pasada de Santa Fe  
La Pasada Gift Shop  
Las Cosas de Santa Fe  
Las Manos  
Dr. Ralph Lopez  
The Market  
McAdoo Gallery  
A. L. McNown, Architect  
Memorial Chapel  
Monte Sol Realtors  
Monte Vista Fuel & Feed  
Montgomery, Andrews & Hannahs  
Montgomery Ward  
Mountain Wolf Agency  
Mr. D Men's Store  
Murphy's Western Wear  
Mutual Building & Loan Assoc.  
Nan's Toy Boutique  
Nelson Enterprises, Inc  
Pat Niblack Gallery  
Noon Whistle  
Office, Inc  
One Hour Martinizing  
Original Trading Post  
Oro y Plata  
Ortega's La Fonda Indian Shop  
Out Side In Cafe  
Packard's  
Payne's Exxon Service  
Payne's Nursery  
Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co  
Pelham Gallery  
Pflueger's  
Phil's Home Center  
Pink Adobe  
Plaza Ore House  
Pogo's Eatery  
Rancho Encantado  
Reynolds Agency, Inc  
Richard's Horseman's Haven Cafe  
Roadrunner CowBelles

Robert & Madalyn of Santa Fe  
James H. Russell Agency  
Ruybalid's Indian Shop  
Rydal Press/Printworks  
Santa Fe Arts & Graphics  
Santa Fe Agency, Ltd  
Santa Fe Broadcasting Co  
Santa Fe Glass & Mirror  
Santa Fe Hilton Inn  
Santa Fe Music  
Santa Fe National Bank  
Santa Fe Steaksmitth  
Santa Fe Business & Professional  
Women's Club  
Santa Fe Women's Club & Library Ass'n  
Santa Fe World Travel, Inc  
Santa Fean Magazine  
Sargent & Associates Realtors  
Sauter Lincoln Mercury  
Sears, Roebuck & Company  
Sebring Hair Designing  
Sew Natural, Inc  
Cecil Sherwood Chevron  
Shop of the Rainbow Man, Inc  
Robert Sills Gallery  
Silver Tree  
Small World Travel Inc  
Southwestern Stationers  
Stiha Studio & Gallery  
Streets of Taos Gallery  
Sue's Hallmark Shoppe  
Sunrise of Santa Fe  
Territorial Agency  
James E. Thomson, Attorney  
Thunder River Fur Trading Co.  
Travel Service Everywhere  
The Turquoise Trading Co.  
Uhl & Lopez Engineers, Inc  
Unicorn Antiques  
Valdez Corporation  
Vassiliou Fur Gallery  
Victor's Fine Jewelers  
Villagra Book Shop  
Wilson Galleries  
Winona Trading Post  
Women's Rodeo Roundup  
Zonta Club of Santa Fe