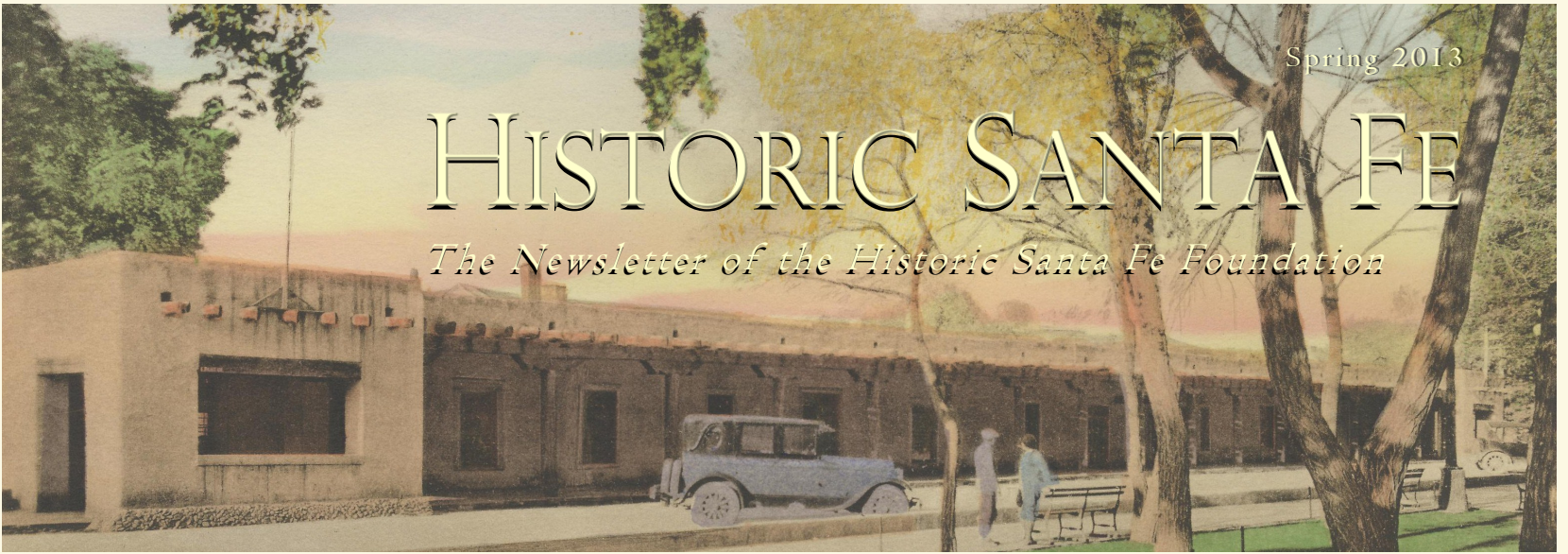


Spring 2013

HISTORIC SANTA FE

The Newsletter of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation



The Santa Fe Plaza

The *plaza mayor*, or main plaza, in a Spanish or Latin American community is the heart of the community and Santa Fe, New Mexico, once the northernmost colony in Spain's New World frontier, is no different than Mexico City in that respect. Formally founded by don Pedro de Peralta in 1610, the main plaza in Santa Fe, the only villa, or town in the province during the 17th century, was twice as long as it is now. At that time, the plaza stretched east all the way to the steps of the parroquia, or parish church dedicated to Saint Francis while the Palace of Government where the governor had his offices and living quarters bounded the plaza on the north. Other government buildings including the Cabildo (town council) provided the western and southern boundaries along with the homes and businesses of the leading citizens in the villa.

During its long history the plaza has seen amazing, wonderful and terrifying events; in 1613 church officials threw Peralta's chair, his symbol of civic authority, into the street at the east end of the plaza when they excommunicated the governor for his defiance of their demands. In 1643, the plaza was silent witness to the beheadings of Antonio Baca and seven others for their roles in trying to rid the colony of Governor Luis Rosas. During the term of Governor Bernardo Lopez de Mendizábal in the early 1660s, the plaza was the scene of Puebloan dancers in full regalia as they performed centuries-old rituals in front of the Palace of Governors. The world turned upside down for the colonists in New Mexico in August of 1680 when the Pueblos, irate at being cast as pawns in the constant struggle between Spanish state and Roman church, erupted in fury and besieged nearly 1,000 settlers in the Casas Reales (royal buildings surrounding the plaza). After nine days the siege was broken in hand-to-hand combat in the streets of the villa and the Spanish fled their kingdom with only the clothes they wore to El Paso del Norte where they remained for twelve years.

When Diego de Vargas and a small group of men entered Santa Fe in the fall of 1692 they found a large fortified, three- to four-story pueblo with a single entrance built on the site of the former Casas Reales and kivas, semi-subterranean ceremonial chambers, dug into the plaza. In the winter of 1693, Vargas returned with several hundred settlers and after a pitched battle defeated the Puebloan residents of Santa Fe and moved the colonists into the pueblo. Only two years later in 1695, Sebastian Rodriguez, Vargas's drummer and the town crier, paraded around the plaza to announce the founding of a new town, the Villa de Santa Cruz de la Canada, north of Santa Fe.

During the first decades of the eighteenth century the plaza was a beehive of activity as the villa was rebuilt and the pueblo demolished. In the mid-1750s Governor Marin del Valle paid for the construction of a military chapel dedicated to Nuestra Señora de la Luz, La Castrense (66-70 E. San Francisco, now demolished) on the south side of plaza. Said to be the loveliest church in the land, the church and stone retablo, altar screen, were designed and constructed by cartographer and santero Bernardo Miera y Pacheco. The altar screen now graces Cristo Rey Parish church.

As the years rolled by the plaza grew smaller as homes and government buildings were constructed in the area in front of the parroquia until by early 19th century the plaza assumed its present size. 1821 was a momentous year in the history of the plaza when Mexico declared independence from Spain and the Santa Fe Trail from the eastern United States was born. During the Mexican-American War of 1846, U. S. military troops under General Stephen W. Kearny took Santa Fe without a shot and New Mexico became a territory of the United States. For a brief time during the Civil War Santa Fe was occupied by Confederate forces led by General H. H. Sibley and in April of 1865, the plaza and all the

Plaza, continued...

buildings surrounding it were draped in black to mourn the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

The first train entered Santa Fe February 9, 1880 on a spur from the main line of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad and signaled the end of the Santa Fe Trail. However, for unknown reasons instead of proving to be an economic boon to the former Spanish villa, Santa Fe's economy plummeted. Ironically, even though it was not recognized at the time, the arrival of the train would prove to be extremely important to the economy of not only Santa Fe but the entire state.

Amid the thousands of tourists who planned trips to the territory, others seeking to improve their health arrived in Santa Fe by the hundreds to take the tuberculosis cure at Sunmount and other sanitariums. At the same time, a fledgling art colony thrived as it found a home along with historians L. Bradford Prince, Benjamin Read and Ralph Emerson Twitchell, archaeologists Edgar Lee Hewett, A. V. Kidder, Sylvanus G. Morley, Jesse Nusbaum, and architects including John Gaw Meem. Almost overnight Santa Fe became "the City Different"! The annual Fiesta de Santa Fe was reborn after a hiatus of decades with the 1911 Entrada of Vargas and his troops and the plaza resounded with cheers and congratulatory speeches when New Mexico finally achieved statehood in 1912, Santa Fe had become an important destination.

The Plaza is still the heart of Santa Fe especially at times of celebration or any event that brings us together as a community. Mother's Day 2013, is a lovely afternoon to come together as we host our tour of four very special properties around the plaza.



Olive Rush meticulously worked out her design on paper for the murals in the library entrance foyer. More about the murals and Miss Rush may be found at the Smithsonian Archives of American Art.

The "Tudesqui" House

The territorial style "Tudesqui" House is located in one of the oldest neighborhoods in Santa Fe, the Barrio de Analco. The house was home of Pablo Delgado through much of the 1850s, when it contained six rooms. Pablo was a merchant and a member of a prosperous family of merchants; Felipe B. Delgado, who built the house on Palace Avenue, was his youngest brother. Various members of the Delgado family owned the house until 1865, when it was bought by a miller named Francisco López. At that time the property extended from DeVargas Street to a point in the center of the Santa Fe River.

The house is L-shaped around a courtyard behind the street wall. It is built in thick-walled adobe construction with Territorial-style brick coping on the parapet. The interior features high ceilings with exposed *vigas* and wide plank floors.

The Foundation completed a rehabilitation of this building in 2006. It is used as a private residence.

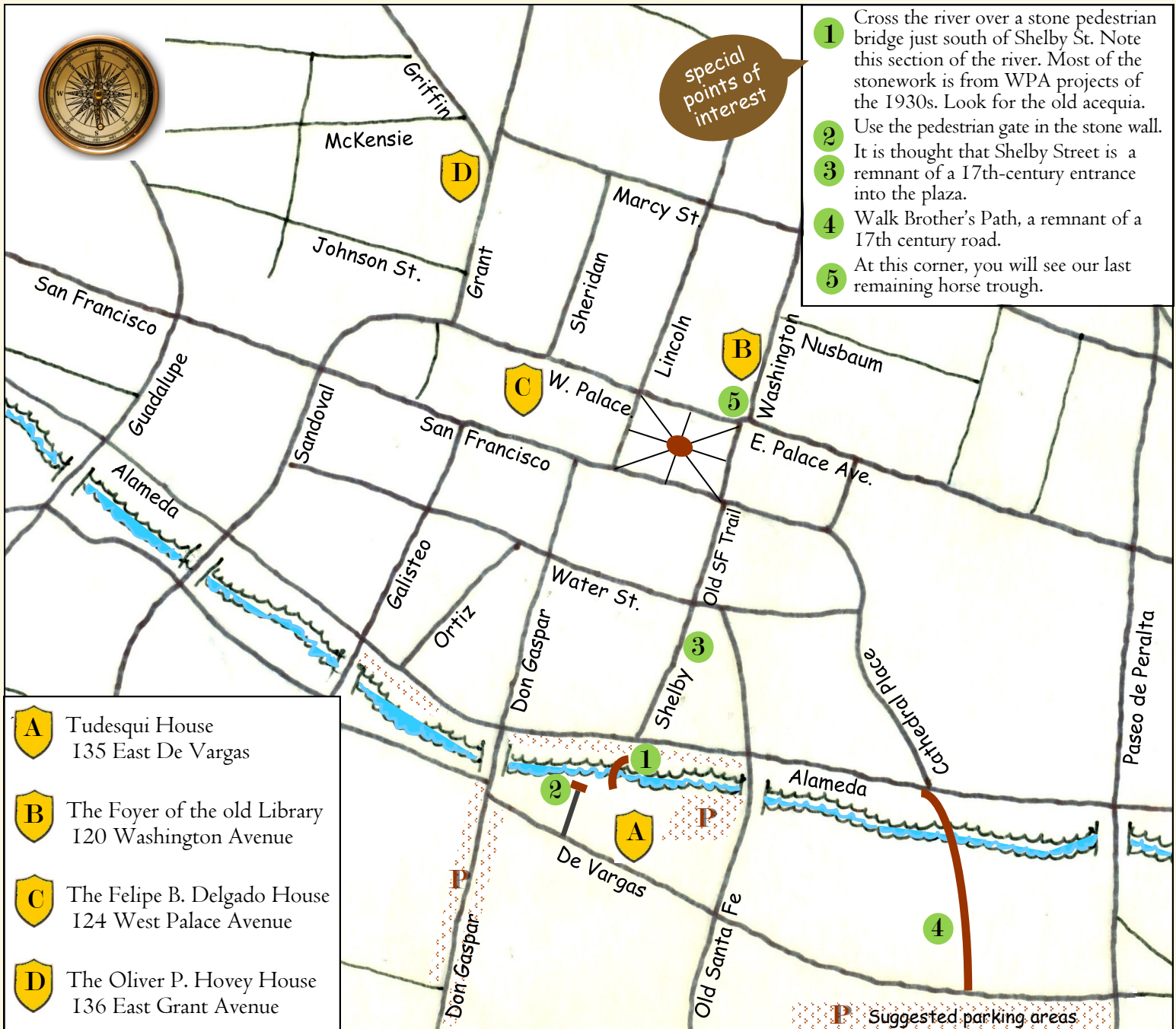


Left, the Mission-style Women's Board of Trade Library before the 1932 remodeling. The round-headed arch at the doorway today recalls the original 1907 design. Photo, circa 1912 by Jesse Nusbaum, courtesy Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NMHM/DCA) Negative # 056603.

Olive Rush Murals in History Library Lobby

Olive Rush completed these murals in 1936 using true fresco technique. Raised as a Quaker, Olive Rush studied at Earlham College, the art school associated with the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and at the Art Students League. A May 24, 1914 article in the *Albuquerque Morning Journal* praised a show of her paintings, "... multitudes are thronging to the Old Palace to view the exhibit. Miss Rush is one of the best known women painters in the U.S. and her exhibit is another art triumph for the New Mexico museum..." After several visits here, she moved to Santa Fe in 1920.

This building was originally the 1907 Mission-style Women's Board of Trade Library. In 1932, it was remodeled by John Gaw Meem into its current style. When the city library moved to new quarters in 1988, the History Museum purchased the building. It now houses the Museum's History Library and Photo Archives.



- 1** Cross the river over a stone pedestrian bridge just south of Shelby St. Note this section of the river. Most of the stonework is from WPA projects of the 1930s. Look for the old acequia.
- 2** Use the pedestrian gate in the stone wall.
- 3** It is thought that Shelby Street is a remnant of a 17th-century entrance into the plaza.
- 4** Walk Brother's Path, a remnant of a 17th century road.
- 5** At this corner, you will see our last remaining horse trough.

- A** Tudesqui House
135 East De Vargas
- B** The Foyer of the old Library
120 Washington Avenue
- C** The Felipe B. Delgado House
124 West Palace Avenue
- D** The Oliver P. Hovey House
136 East Grant Avenue

Delgado House

The Territorial-style Delgado House was built in 1891 by Felipe B. Delgado, a socially prominent Santa Fe merchant. The house remained in the Delgado family until the late 1960s, when it was purchased and renovated by architect John Gaw Meem. In 1961, Meem was instrumental in the establishment of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. In 1980, he and his wife, Faith, donated the house to the Foundation to ensure its preservation.

Special features of the house include a second-story wooden porch, a standing-seamed metal hipped roof, wood cornices with decorative corbels, interior stairway with balusters and banisters, 8 fireplaces each with slight variations in design, transom doors and a stone basement.

Oliver P. Hovey House

In 2002, the Historic Santa Fe Foundation renamed the "brick" Tully House for Oliver P. Hovey who was sometimes referred to as Lord Hovey. He was not a Lord, just as his house was not really red brick, but as historic research often reveals, things are not always as they seem. The seven-room adobe residence is distinguished by an exterior of stucco painted to look like brick and for its history of near destruction and subsequent rescue by the Historic Santa Fe Foundation.

When the Foundation purchased the property in 1976, the false brick was covered with stucco and long forgotten. An early photograph revealed walls painted in false brick. When existing stucco was removed, fragments of the painted brick were uncovered and it was decided that the "brick" finish would be restored.



Office 545 Canyon Road
Santa Fe NM 87501

Phone 505-983-2567
Email info@HistoricSantaFe.org
Website www.HistoricSantaFe.org

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PROPERTIES PROTECTED BY THE HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION-OWNED PROPERTIES

- The James L. Johnson House
545 Canyon Road (El Zaguán)
- The "Tudesqui" House
135 East de Vargas Street
- The Oliver P. Hovey House
136 Grant Avenue
- The Felipe B. Delgado House
124 West Palace Avenue
- The Cross of the Martyrs
Paseo de la Loma
- The Donaciano Vigil House
518 Alto Street

- The Garcia House
524 Alto Street
- The Rivera House
524 ½ Alto Street
- Jane & Gustave Baumann House
409 Camino de las Animas

You can provide permanent protection for your historic property. Ask us about our historic preservation easement program by calling (505) 983-2567.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION EASEMENTS HELD BY HSFF

- The Jane & Gustave Baumann House
409 Camino de las Animas
- The Juan Jose Prada House
519 Canyon Road
- The Original Trading Post
201 West San Francisco
- The Shuster Mian House
580 Camino del Monte Sol
- The Wm. Penhallow Henderson House
555 Camino del Monte Sol
- The Irene von Horvath House
728 Canyon Road
- The Sara Melton House
601½ Paseo de Peralta