A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST - The Baca House, Upper Las Vegas

The Baca house is a two story variation of the Territorial style of the American Southwest. This house was built and probably designed by its first owner between the years 1852 and 1859. Most likely the main two story section of the house was built first and the secondary farm buildings enclosing the rear patio were added at a later date. Originally a single storied porch was carried around all sides of the patio. The classical detailing of this house is perhaps the most refined to be found in New Mexico. The delicate two storied porches on the front and rear of the house, and the four entrances which lead into the hall on both the first and second floors are far more reminiscent of Federal architecture of the north-eastern seaboard at the end of the eighteenth century, than what is usually thought of as Greek Revival architecture. The play of these refined wood details, against the simple mass of the adobe structure constitutes the basic characteristic of this house.

Photographs and drawings of this building were made available for publication through the kindness of John Gav Meem and the Historic American Building Survey of the National Park Service. The drawings were made in 1940 by Cecil Tames, Trent Thomas, R. P. McClung and Raymond Lovelady, under the direction of Mr. Meem and Leicester Hyde.
exterior—rear courtyard
exterior—south entrance

interior fireplace, first floor

Second Floor Plan

Scale 1"=20'