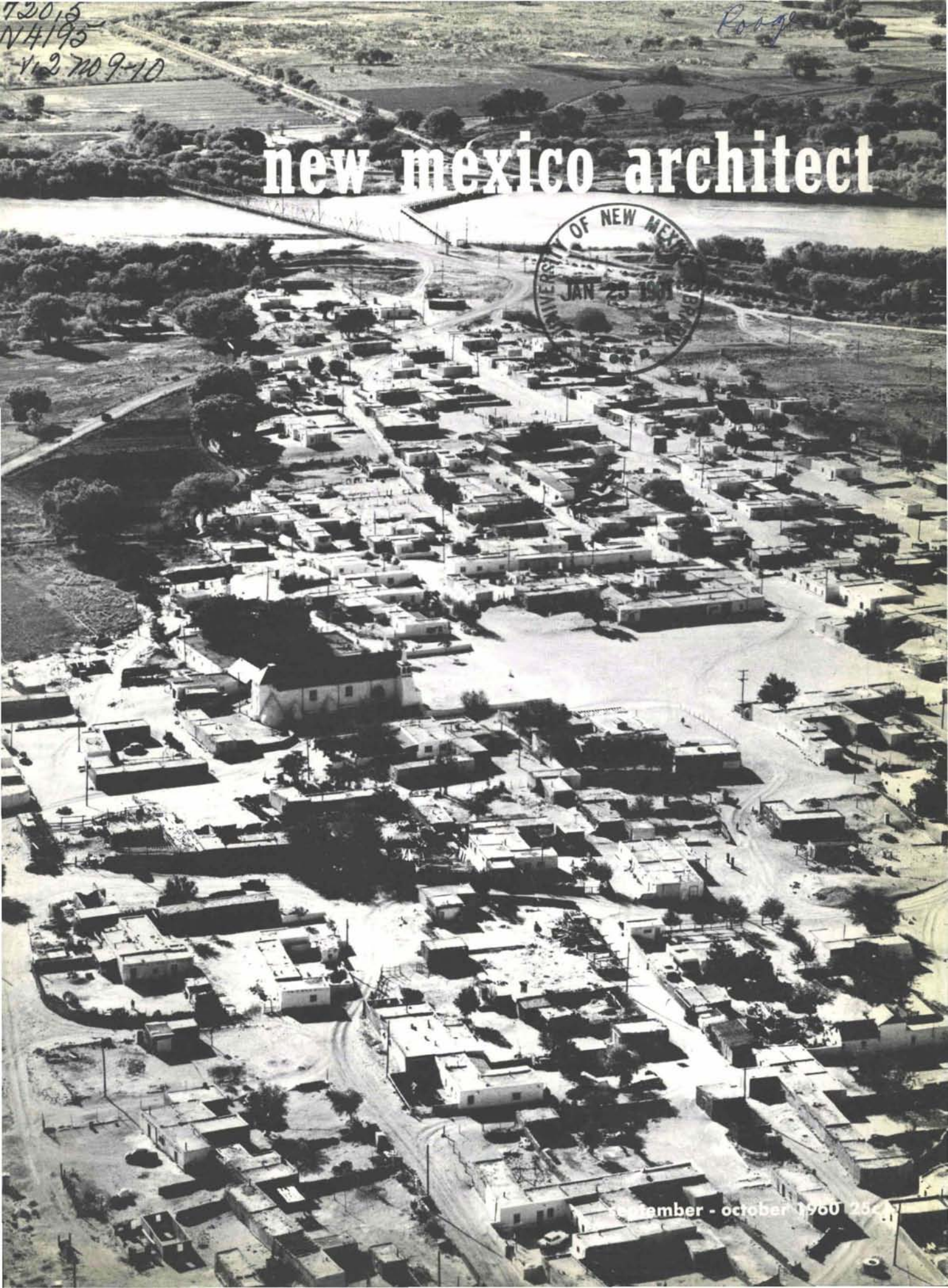


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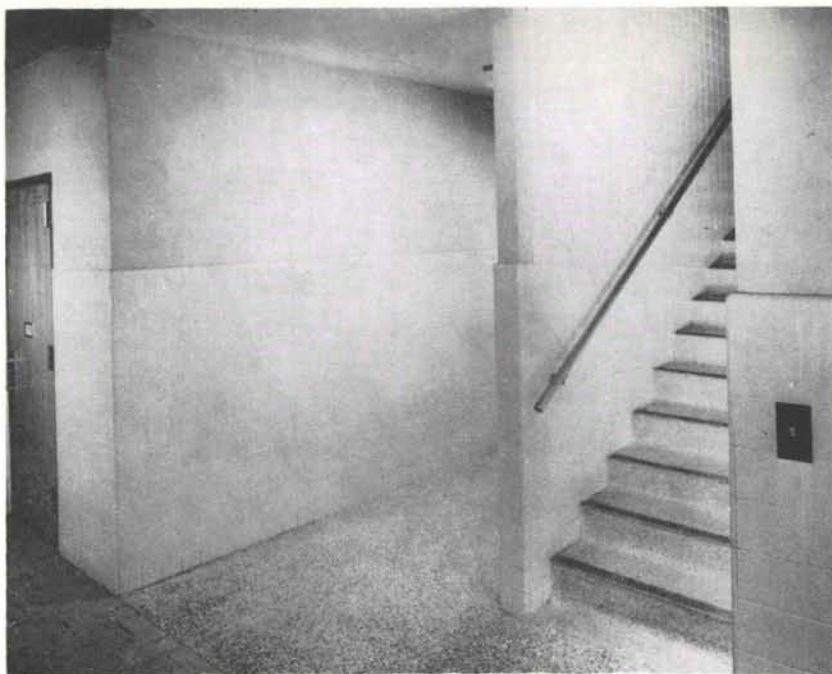


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- 6 Notes and News
- 9 Notes on Readings
—David Gebhard
- 10 Projects
- 12 Southwest Blood Bank, Albuquerque
—Boehning and Boehning, Associated
- 14 San Agustin de la Isleta
—McHugh & Hooker, Bradley P. Kidder & Associates
- 18 The Last Days of the Nusbaum House, a Chronicle
—Mark Heyman
- 26 Advertisers' Index

*(cover—Air View of Isleta Puebla
Dick Kent, Photographer)*

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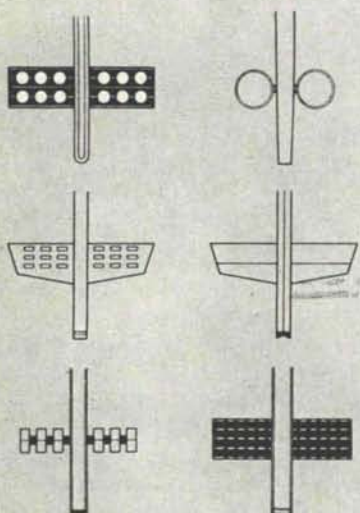
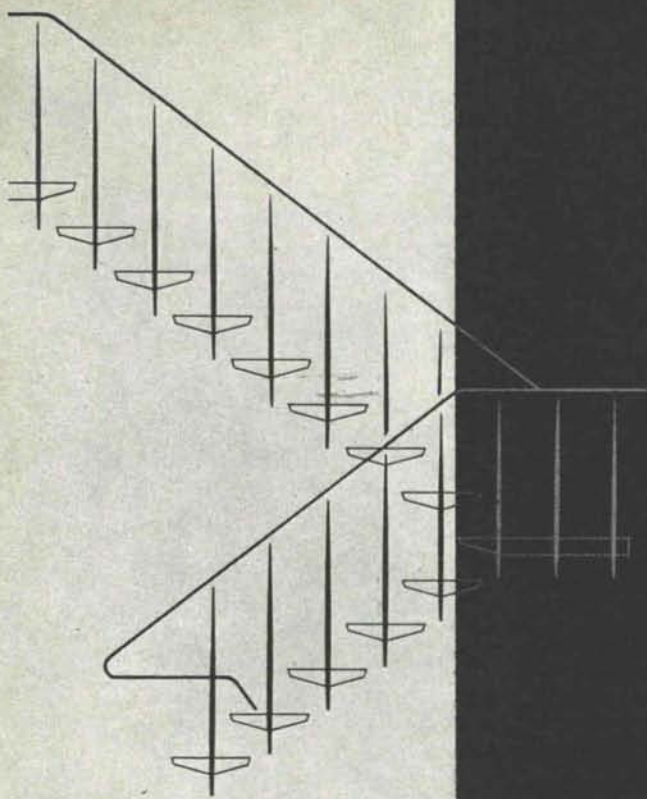
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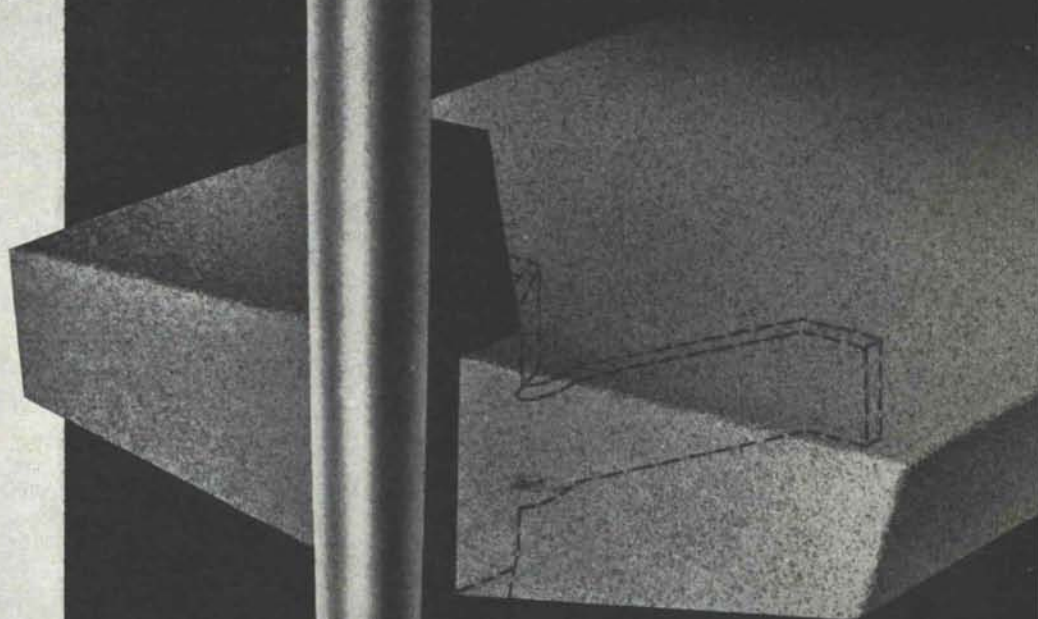
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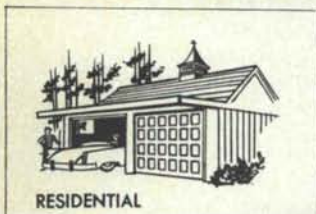
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NOTES AND NEWS

New Editors for the NMA. With this issue the NMA enters an interim under new editors. John Conron and Bainbridge Bunting jointly will serve as editors during the year's absence of Dr. David Gebhard. David has taken a leave of absence from his post as director of the Roswell Museum to teach—on a Fulbright appointment—architectural design and history at the University of Istanbul. The Gebhards flew to England in mid-August en route to Turkey.

The new editors aspire to maintain the high level of performance and presentation that Dr. Gebhard established during his year of editorship. They also take this opportunity to appeal to the architects of New Mexico for their suggestions concerning future issues. Negative criticism as well as positive will always be welcomed.

Register Opens Own Office. Philippe de Montauzan Register, president of the New Mexico A.I.A., opened his own office on August first. Phil's new address: 109 Washington Avenue, Santa Fe. On September first he will also open a branch office in the Simms Building, in Albuquerque.

News from the Portland Cement Association. The Portland Cement Association announces the establishment of a branch office in Albuquerque. Officials thus far assigned to the office are Bernard C. Smith as District Engineer and Kenneth D. Hansen as Field Engineer. Mr. Smith has been active in New Mexican engineering circles since 1953, and Mr. Hansen was a 1955 graduate in architectural engineering of UNM. P.C.A. is a non-profit organization supported by some seventy portland cement-producing companies in USA and Canada.

Another interesting item from the Portland Cement Association concerns an intensive investigation of the reported scaling of concrete surfaces during winter months. The Association, drawing on its research facilities to investigate the situation in the Rocky Mountain region, concluded that all complaints of scaling without exception involved concrete that was not air-entrained.

Air-entrained concrete is produced through the use of air-entraining agents as the concrete is mixed. The amount of entrained air is usually between 3 and 6 per cent of the volume of the concrete. Air-entraining portland cement is made by grinding small amounts of soap-like resinous or fatty materials with normal cement clinker. This produces concrete with billions of microscopic air cells per cubic foot to provide room for expansion of water as it freezes. The P.C.A. urges an air-entraining agent in work done in this area sufficient to entrain at least 4½ per cent by volume on all outside flatwork.

Committee for the Preservation of Historic Buildings. Friday, August 12, found the Committee for the Preservation of Historic Buildings of the New Mexico chapter of A.I.A. called together for a dinner meeting in Albuquerque. Nine members (three all the way from Santa Fe) were present to consider the program for the coming Autumn. Preservation of the Nusbaum house, the *BIG* conservation issue of the present, was discussed, and subsequently chairman Richard Milner represented the committee at hearings of the city council in Santa Fe. Several A.I.A. members from Santa Fe have lead the

continued—page 26 NOTES ON NEWS



Chair and table in office of the New Mexico Oil & Gas Association designed by

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NOTES ON READING

Robert W. Marks, *THE DYMATION WORLD OF BUCKMINSTER FULLER*. Reinhold Publishing Corp., New York, 1960.

Certainly one of the most fascinating persons in our contemporary American scene is the designer Buckminster Fuller. Not only is Fuller an extremely "popular" figure among intellectuals, designers and students today, but he has been outstanding in the minds of many people for well over 30 years. Those who have had the opportunity of meeting and hearing this man have inevitably been tremendously impressed with his penetrating approach to a vast range of human-oriented problems. Fuller's geodesic dome is literally a by word in contemporary architecture, but it should not be forgotten that as far back as the late 1920's that he was designing his first "Dymation" house, which entailed a full utilization of our mass production techniques; and that in the 1930's he was experimenting with his metal single-piece "unitary" bath room units and his three wheeled dymation automobiles.

The breadth of Fuller's work forms the base for this study by Robert Marks. Well over half of the book is devoted to photographs and drawings of Fuller's designs from the 1920's to the present. The text seeks primarily to explain Fuller's creations in the designer's own language and within his own philosophical system. Because of the author's close rapport with the designer, one almost feels that the text is by Fuller himself, rather than someone else. This partisanship on the part of the author removes any possibility that this might be a critical study of the remarkable man in terms of the forces and influences which have played such a significant part in his development. As is so often the case with writings about Frank Lloyd Wright, Fuller is presented to us as a singular lone genius, completely separated from the world in which he lived. Perhaps though, one is expecting too much, especially when the subject is still living, in the way of a critical approach.

Although these limitations are quite serious, nevertheless this book does fulfil a real need in simply publishing Fuller's many accomplishments. The numerous illustrations present a rather full and detailed picture of the many inventions which have occupied the mind of this remarkable twentieth century man.

—David Gebhard

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT: WRITINGS AND BUILDINGS *selected* by Edgar Kaufmann and Ben Raeburn, MERIDIAN BOOKS, New York \$1.95 in paper; \$3.95 in cloth.

Because of what publishers have felt to be the limited circulation of books on architecture and also due to the expense of producing the many needed illustrative plates, most architectural books are far more expensive than people can generally afford. It is welcome to note that a limited number of inexpensive paper back editions are now beginning to be published. Among the most recent of these is the present book which contains a wide and sensitively selected group of writings by Wright, together with a large number of half tone and line cut illustrations of many of his important buildings and projects. The writings are grouped in such a manner as to explain the various phases of the architect's work, from the early 1890's until the time of his death in 1959.

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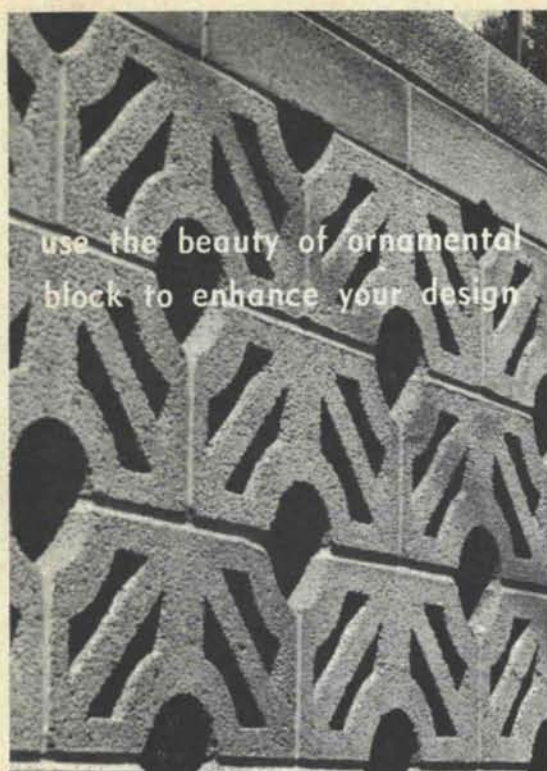
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These phases are: "Roots—to 1893," "Prairie Architecture 1893-1910," "Taliesin 1911-1916," "Japan 1916-1922," "Great Projects and Small Houses 1920-1929," "Fellowship 1930-1945," "World Architecture 1946-1959." The grouping of the writings in this manner serves the admirable purpose of providing the reader with a sense of historical periods as seen through the architect's own eyes and mind. But at the same time the reader must cautiously note the date of these individual writings, for many of them were written years after the events which they describe and thus entail more hindsight than foresight.

The illustrations alone would make this book well worth buying and an additional premium and bonus provided the reader is a map and a listing by cities and and town (with street addresses) of Wright's executed work. Thus the reader may take this small pocket book along with him on his travels as a field guide to Wright's buildings.

—David Gebhard

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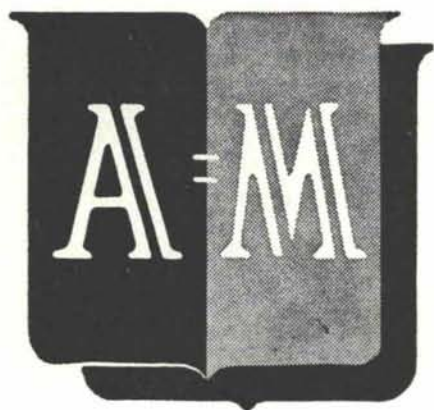
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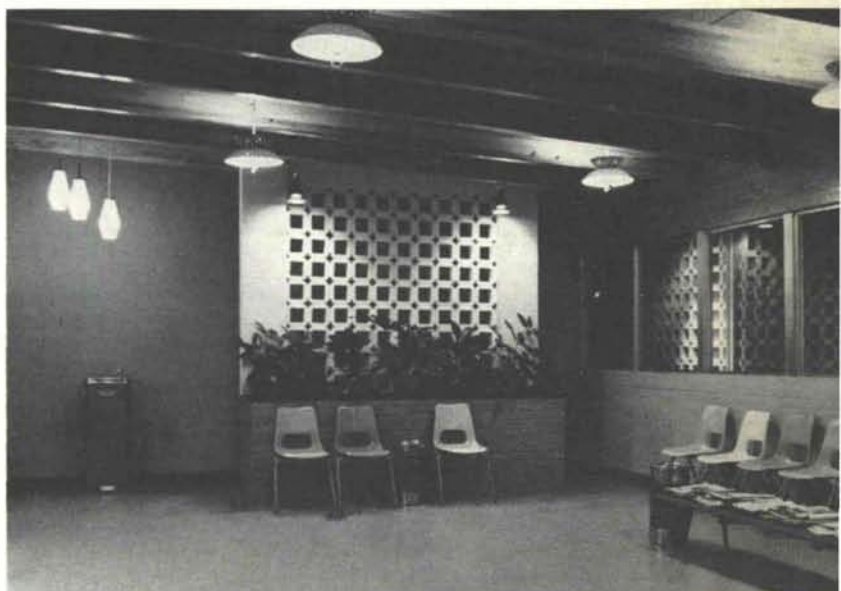
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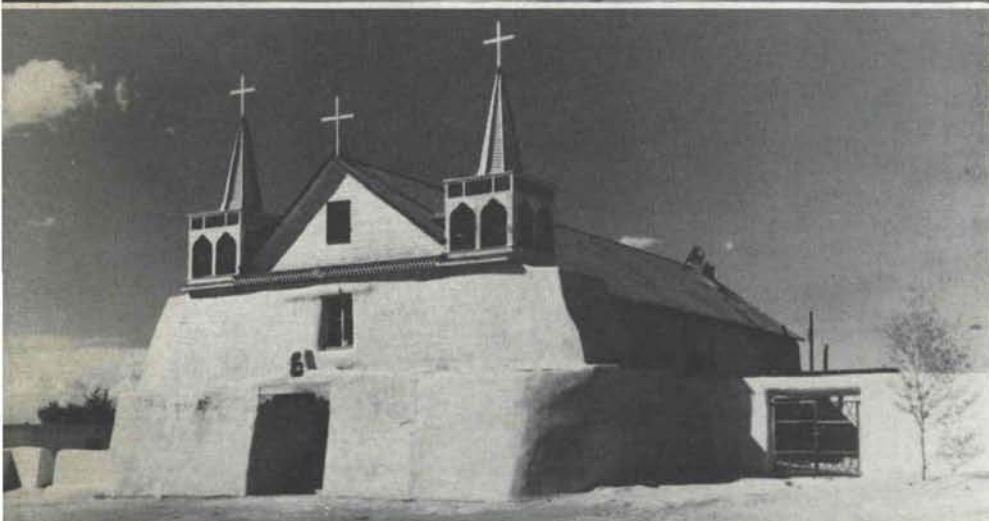
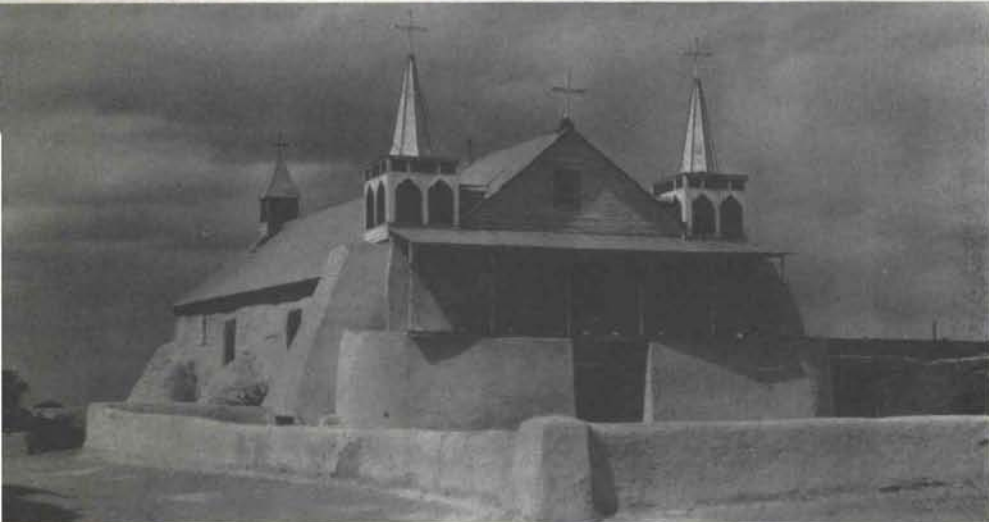
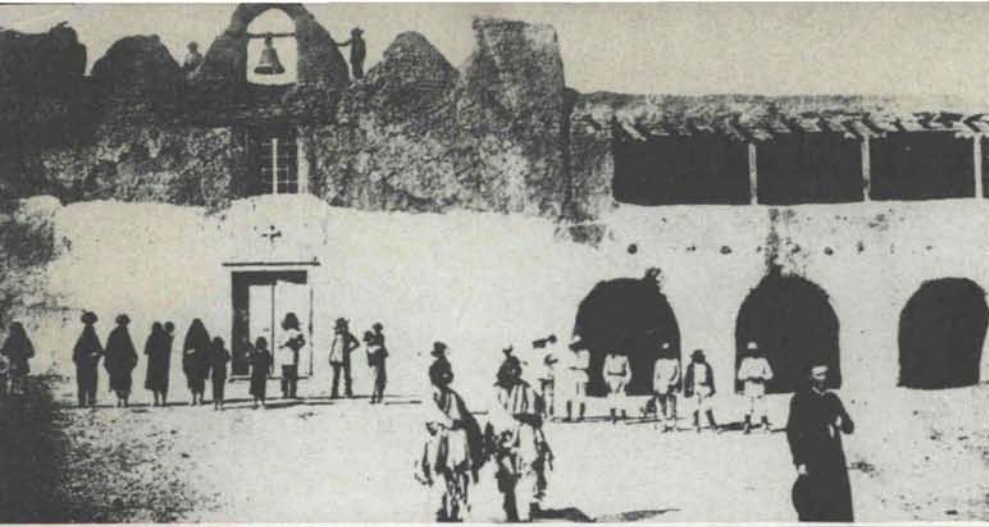
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San Agustín de la Isleta



San Agustín de la Isleta is one of the key monuments in that great chain of mission stations built by Franciscan friars in the remote province of Nuevo Mexico between 1607 and 1834. One of the earliest churches erected in this area, perhaps 1626 though the exact date is uncertain, it is also a perfect stylistic representative of this class of monuments.

Characteristic are the church's long, narrow nave, the polygonal apse and the low-lying convento or priest's house to one side. These elements repeat, in New Mexican adobe, forms that had a century earlier been constructed in stone by Spanish missionaries who came to old Mexico to convert the Aztecs. Indeed, the ancestry of these churches could even be traced to Spain itself, though there the prototypes are not as simply and clearly discerned as in the sixteenth century "fortress churches" of old Mexico.

Another outstanding feature of the Isleta church is the original transverse clear-story window placed above the roof of the nave and illuminating the area immediately about the altar. As the naves of all New Mexican churches were originally very dark, the flood of overhead

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Photographs top to bottom: 1860 (Museum of New Mexico); 1931 (New Mexico Magazine); 1951 (New Mexico Tourist Bureau); 1959 (John McHugh). Opposite page photographs. John McHugh; sketch, Albert Clark.

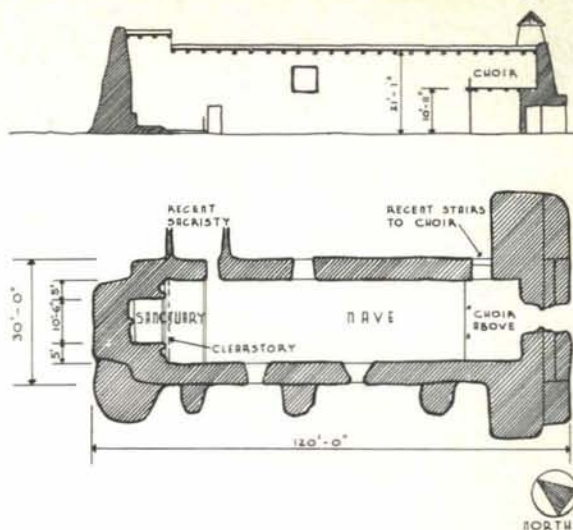
light admitted to the altar by this large clearstory window was once even more dramatic than is the present effect.

Other than this opening, early churches were illuminated only by two or three small windows fitted with solid wood shutters; the large, glass-filled windows currently in use were added only after Yankee occupation of New Mexico.

Whereas important Mexican prototypes were spanned by masonry vaults, sometimes even elaborate late Gothic ribbed vaults, the New Mexican copies were covered with simple wooden roofs. Large pine *vigas* support a covering of short thin poles (*latias* or *savinos*) which in turn support a covering of bark or moss and then a thick layer of clay impenetrable to water. Often the *vigas* are supported at their wall ends by a range of elaborately profiled corbels, and sometimes the *latias* are set in a herringbone pattern and even painted different colors. Because of dampness in the clay roofing material, these wooden ceilings have had to be replaced at intervals. The corbels, least exposed to the damp, often out-last several sets of *vigas*. In the recent restoration of Isleta, the date 1716, incised and darkly painted, was discovered in one of the corbels near the altar (right side, second corbel from altar wall). Although the naves of vaulted Mexican mission churches often measure from 35 to 45 feet in width. New Mexican churches are limited by their wooden and earth construction to widths of 25 to 30 feet; they are also proportionally shorter and lower than their Mexican ancestors.

One final similarity between old and new Mexican churches might be mentioned: the choir loft (*coro*) placed in a balcony immediately above the main doorway. In Mexico these *coros* were customarily supported on masonry vaults while here there are simple wooden beams, but in both instances illumination derives from a single small window just over the front entrance. Access to the *coro* was from the adjacent *convento* though the recent remodeling at Isleta has provided a new little stairway rising directly from the nave.

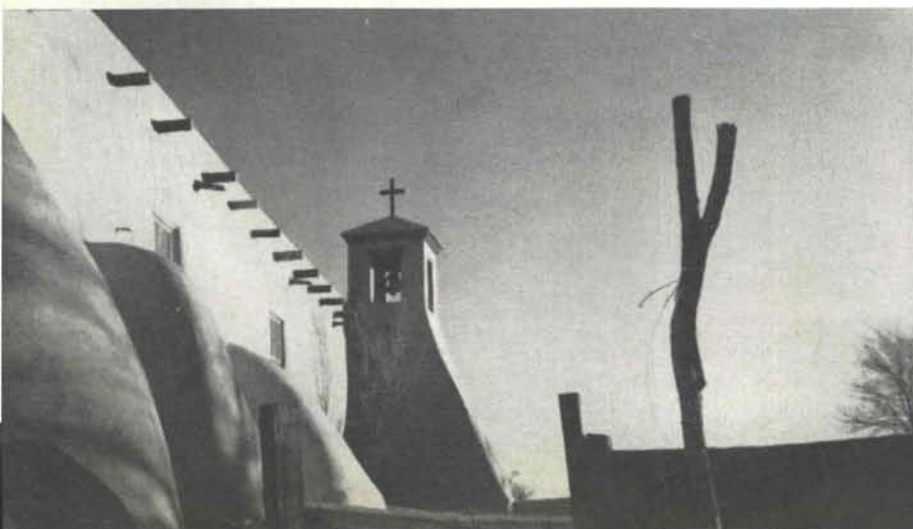
Our knowledge of the history of San Agustin is far from exact. This is so in part because records are missing and also because the building itself contains so little internal evidence regarding the modifications that have been made from time to time. Adobe



is such a fugitive material. Melting and eroding away or being added to with such facility, adobe buildings are constantly subject to modifications. And since adobe brick made in 1626 look quite like adobe brick made from the same clay pit in 1826, the historian can not distinguish one building campaign from another.

As for the antiquity of the present church of San Agustin, there is no cogent reason to doubt that the present edifice is, in part at least, the original structure of 1626. Its architectural features are comparable to those of the earliest New Mexican churches, and there are no historical circumstances which cast doubt on its age. This is all the more true as Isleta was the one pueblo that did not take part in the Indian uprising against the Spanish in 1680. Sometime before the Spanish reconquered the Rio Grande valley in 1692, Isleta church was burned by hostile Indians but this damage was not beyond repair. There was a hasty reparation in 1706 and a more thorough renovation in 1716, the date of the apsidal corbel mentioned above. George Kubler, the authority on New Mexican churches (*The Religious Architecture of New Mexico*, Taylor Museum, Colorado Springs, 1940) suggests additional renovations in the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The other thing about adobe, aesthetically challenging but elusive to the historian, is the ease with



which the whole character of a building can be altered with a minimum of effort—new openings punched here and old ones filled in there, whole wings added or allowed to dissolve into a low clay mound that can scarcely be distinguished from the ground on which the building stands, silhouettes altered by merely replacing a couple of courses of adobe masonry or adding a light wooden superstructure or roof. And this does not even suggest the havoc wrought by such modern hazards as hard plaster and steel casement. The enormous variations in external appearances achieved within less than a century at Isleta are chronicled by the four accompanying photographs. And had earlier Spanish or Indian settlers found time to draw pictures of this building, it is quite likely that equally drastic changes in appearance would have been chronicled for the previous two and a quarter centuries.

As for San Agustin's original appearance, all we can do is hypothesize a crenelated roofline, similar to the extant stone battlements of Mexican churches. The first photographs of Isleta may have been made as early as the 1860's but a surely dated photograph of 1876 shows the same elements: the undulating outline of the face with its central *espadaña* and the two-storied, three-arched *convento* to the right. Subsequent pictures are self explanatory and indicate the changing tastes and technology of the Rio Grande valley—a corrugated iron roof of about 1910 and the concrete block towers of 1959.

The most recent remodeling of San Agustin de la Isleta was carried out by the Santa Fe firm of archi-

tecs, McHugh and Hooker, Bradley P. Kidder and Associates. The significant aspect of this undertaking was the removal of the iron roof and re-activation of the transverse clearstory window. This feature once again floods the altar with light and thus dramatically focuses attention on this all-important area. The church interior has benefited by the removal of some of the nineteenth century clutter. Required cult images were placed in discrete niches cut into the thick adobe walls as were inconspicuous glass panels that conceal modern electric lights. The fresh white plaster of interior walls follow the undulating surfaces of adobe masonry and form a fine background for the collection of venerable religious paintings.

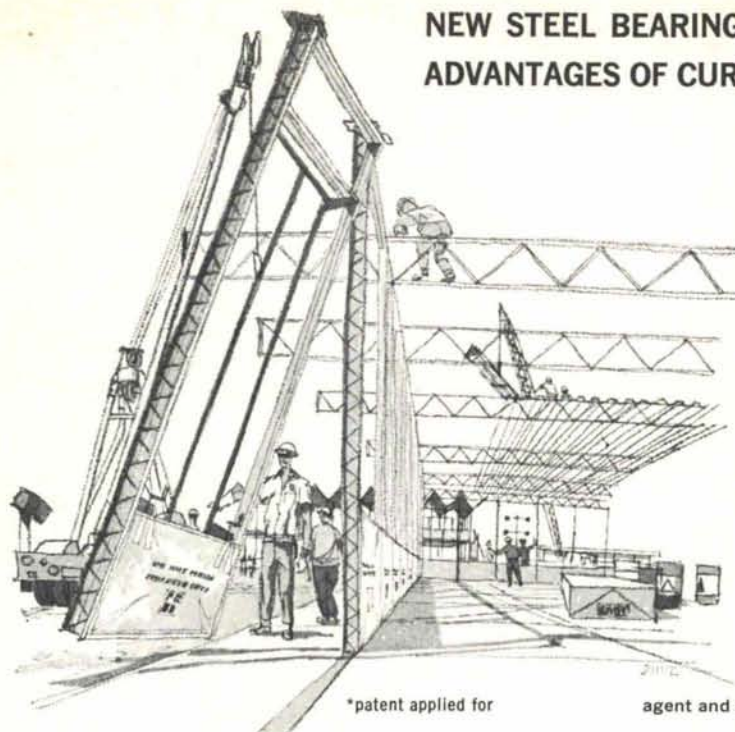
On the exterior the substitution of hard plaster is more practical if somewhat less vibrant than was the old mudded surface, but perhaps Isleta women no longer can find time for the yearly exercises of plastering which almost amount to ritual in some New Mexico villages. Lastly, one cannot fail to regret those perky little 1880 towers of wood which formerly crowned the ponderously buttressed facade. Incongruous as was that contrast, the combination was somehow indicative of a particular time and place. The new block towers, more rationally related, it is true, to the base, are also less distinctively and specifically Isleta. Without a blush of embarrassment this new facade might appear on any church in any neighborhood in any community between the Panhandle and Los Angeles—an interchangeable architecture for an interchangeable man in an interchangeable society.

—Bainbridge Bunting

Photograph by Laura Gilpin, 1938.

Photograph by Bainbridge Bunting, 1960





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THE LAST DAYS OF THE NUSBAUM HOUSE?

— A CHRONICLE

BY MARK HEYMAN

"And therefore I move that the Nusbaum property be retained in its entirety as a parking lot; that the trees on the property be retained as far as possible; that any artifacts within the building which the Museum of New Mexico deem worth saving be given to them . . ."

These were the words which, on the night of August 10, 1960, apparently sealed the fate of the Nusbaum House, one of the earliest Territorial homes in Santa Fe.

The Nusbaum House, at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Nusbaum Street, was built in the 1850's by Solomon Spiegelberg. Walls and some interior partitions are 2'-8" thick adobe. The rectangular house, 78 by 48 feet, is set back 55' from Washington Street. The facade is graced with a Territorial portal with gently tapering square white columns. About 1900, a second story was added with 1'-3" thick adobe walls and a matching portal. The property, which extends 180' behind the house, has many trees, the largest of which are between the house and Washington Avenue. Empty for the past three years, the Nusbaum House had served Santa Fe as a boarding house and hotel for the 45 previous years. The exterior of the building reminds one of the Thomas O. Larkin House, 1835, in Monterey.

Herewith is presented a chronicle of the 28 days preceding the fateful day of August 10th and subsequent events up to press-time, as reported in Santa Fe's daily newspaper, "The New Mexican."

JULY 14. SECOND OFF-STREET PARKING LOT SET FOR SANTA FE THIS YEAR . . . "The city council last night approved a long-term lease on the Nusbaum property immediately adjacent to city hall on the south, with plans to convert the six-tenths of an acre lot into off-street parking capable of accommodating from 80-86 cars.

The 15-year lease, at a base rate of \$600 a month with an escalator clause based on a cost of living index, becomes effective Aug. 1. It carries an option for another 15 years when the first term expires . . .

A large adobe house, now vacant, will be razed to make way for the parking lot . . ."

JULY 17. The first two letters to the editor are printed. One, expressing "deep regret," suggests that the building could be used as an office building, city museum, or expanded library. The second, terming the city's plans "ill-advised," suggests the building is more valuable than the minute the parking lot might save motorists.

JULY 19. SF STORM OF PROTEST MOUNTS OVER RAZING OF OLD BUILDING . . . "Following a lengthy discussion last night, the Old Santa Fe Assn. mapped plans to 'do all it can to preserve the old [Nusbaum] building,' John Gaw Meem, president of the organization, said today. He said a delegation from the association was planning to meet this after-

noon with Mayor Leo T. Murphy to present specific proposals for the use of the Nusbaum property . . .

Meem termed the building 'characteristic of the old Territorial style of Santa Fe.' He said that while the building 'did not have a history comparable to that of the Palace of the Governors,' it is a type which the city's historical zone ordinance was designed to include. Its chief historical significance, Meem said, is its origin as part of the Ft. Marcy military complex in the Civil War period . . .

'We (the Association) have been puzzled by the policy of tearing down old buildings to provide parking space for tourists who come to Santa Fe to look at old buildings,' Meem declared . . ."

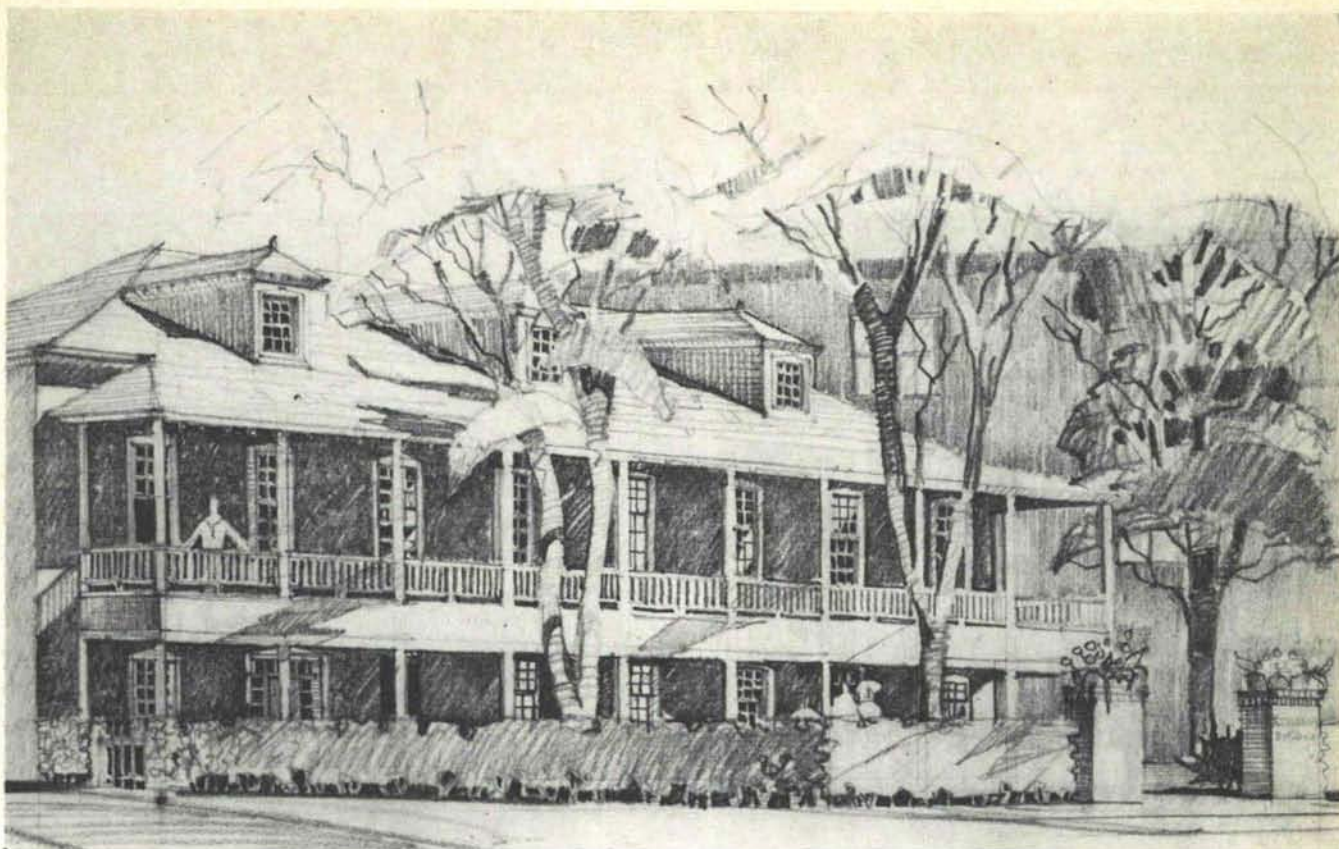
JULY 20. OLD SF ASSN. MAY TACKLE RENOVATION . . . "A temporary compromise with 'time for us to see what we can do' came out of a meeting yesterday afternoon between city officials and representatives of the Old Santa Fe Assn. . . ." The Association offers to raise funds necessary to restore the building.

SAME DATE. Editorial: SOLUTION TO LANDMARK PROBLEM . . . "In the case of the Nusbaum property it now seems clear that Santa Fe does not necessarily face a choice between a shady downtown landmark and a parking lot. It can have both.

Architect Robert Plettenberg, working with the Old Santa Fe Association, has drafted preliminary plans which show how parking for some 60 cars could be arranged behind the old Nusbaum building. That means that the unique old structure could be retained at the cost of decreasing parking space only slightly from the original plan for about 85 vehicles . . ."

JULY 22. A half-page advertisement by the Old Santa Fe Association: **NOW IS THE TIME FOR SANTA FE TO PROTECT ITS HERITAGE . . . HERE ARE THE FACTS:** "1. If this old Territorial home is removed in favor of a parking lot, the view for residents and visitors alike will be over 3 blocks of parking areas with unsightly back-sides of buildings exposed. 2. Santa Fe can still have its cake and eat it too by building a parking area for 50 to 60 cars instead of 85 in back of the Nusbaum house, thus adding more income to the city than an entire parking area could bring . . ." The ad ended with a plea to write or speak to city councilmen and to contribute to an escrow fund for the reconditioning of the building.

JULY 24. SANTA FE FACES CHALLENGE TO SAVE NUSBAUM BUILDING. This is the headline of Oliver LaFarge's weekly column. LaFarge very strongly takes the side of the Association's plan and asks his readers to make their opinions known and send in their contributions. He concludes, "This is our chance to prove that the people of Santa Fe can act as well as protest."



PENCIL SKETCH BY JOHN MCHUGH

JULY 26. Headline across the top of page one: **\$22,000 RAISED IN LAST DITCH FIGHT TO SAVE NUSBAUM HOUSE.** In three days a sum equal to the estimate for restoration is raised and a six-member delegation appears before "an apparently unreceptive city council." After a long discussion, decision is postponed until the following night's official council meeting.

JULY 28. NUSBAUM BUILDING DECISION DELAYED. A two hour council meeting ends with a motion to delay decision until August 10 to "allow the city to explore the possibilities of finding another area near the Plaza for a parking lot" and to give the Association time "to continue its drive" and to come up with a plan for assuming responsibility of the city's lease. There are 11 speakers pro and one con. Meem reads letters from the owners of the historic Sena and Prince buildings. Why, they ask, should they continue to preserve buildings which, though important to the city's tourist trade, are uneconomic in themselves when the city government will destroy a similar structure without a second thought? Meem proposes that the city sub-lease the building to the association for \$300 a month. Attorney Jack Watson says the city must "go through channels" before making a decision, pointing out that before a permit for demolition is issued in the Historical Zone, it must be approved by the City Planning Commission and the Historical Committee. Replies the attorney for the city, "The City Council can take whatever action it wants. The Planning Commission is subordinate to the council. The council is 'king' and the 'king can do no wrong.'"

AUGUST 7. A full-page ad by the Old Santa Fe Association: **AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL.** The facts of the case are reviewed and the Association now offers to sublease the building for \$350 a month, allowing the city to operate the remaining parking lot on a profitable basis.

SAME DATE. HISTORIC SITES UNIT PROPOSED. The mayor proposes an "historical sites advisory commission to catalog and authenticate sites and buildings in Santa Fe . . . At the same time, the mayor said he would recommend that the council proceed with its plans to raze the Nusbaum building . . . 'In the face of the controversy which has arisen over the Nusbaum property, my recommendation may seem contradictory; however it is not,' the mayor declared. 'The lengthy debate and series of public hearings on the matter have been manifestations of a healthy attitude within the community' . . ."

SAME DATE. Oliver LaFarge's column: **NUSBAUM BUILDING STRUGGLE BRINGS OUT NUMEROUS FACTORS.** LaFarge notes the great strength of the "referendum" which was conducted by the Association in terms of hard cash. He concludes: "We are warned . . . that if the Nusbaum building goes down, we may also lose the Prince and Sena buildings, which would be a catastrophe. We can require that new buildings comply with certain style requirements. Fine. But pull out all the really old ones, everything that really backs up the city's claim to age, authenticity and a special culture, and pretty soon it will look like a mouthful of false teeth, with a single old molar, the Governor's Palace, in

one corner. Nobody, but nobody, will cross the continent just to look at a well constructed set of dentures."

AUGUST 8. NUSBAUM SITE ONLY SPOT MURPHY SAYS. "Mayor Leo Murphy said today that 'in three years of surveys and discussions' the city Parking Authority found no location except the Nusbaum building site which would meet downtown parking needs within the limits of the city's financial resources"

AUGUST 9. PLANNERS ASK COMPROMISE. The City Planning Commission, at a special meeting, votes six to one to recommend that the city council "give all possible consideration to the Old Santa Fe Assn. compromise proposal and to accept it if they can possibly see their way to do so." The story also quotes Meem who points out that the new "historic sites commission" would be a good idea, but not entirely necessary, as the Planning Commission had already reported 26 sites and buildings, including the Nusbaum House, as important. Another report, this time by outside planners, had specifically mentioned the Nusbaum building as worthy of preservation.

SAME DATE. Editorial: WE STILL HOPE FOR A MIRACLE.

AUGUST 11. NUSBAUM BUILDING DOOMED; COUNCIL UNITED. After an hour and a half discussion from the crowded meeting hall (of the 16 speakers, 14 favor saving the building), the council unanimously passes the motion quoted at the beginning of this chronicle.

August 12. Letter to the editor: "It is interesting to speculate what could be behind the demonstration of cultural ignorance demonstrated by the City Council Wednesday in deciding to demolish the Nusbaum house. In the decision to destroy a permanent landmark for something that is not even a long-term solution to the long-range parking problems of the city, the Council ignored all pleas to reconsider that a landmark destroyed is gone forever. It acted with a stubborn and somewhat indecent haste"

August 14, Letter to the editor: "A strange thing has happened! Under our legally constituted government, officials such as councilmen are elected to represent the interests of their taxpaying electors. Yet, the unanimous vote of our city council to raze the Nusbaum building does in no way represent the wishes of our citizens"

August 19, Letter to the editor: "There is an old proverb that says, 'A guest for a while sees a mile.'

As a guest in your interesting city I witnessed a spectacle that was funnier than any Broadway farce I have yet seen. As a resident of New Jersey, 17 miles from Broadway, I have seen many.

Wednesday evening I attended the meeting of your council and as soon as I looked at their faces it was plain to see that whatever decisions were to be made had already been agreed upon. The call for citizens to voice their opinions was a mere sop of appeasement to let them 'blow off steam'

It is easy to tear down. To build something worth seeing is something else again. In 60 odd years I've never heard of anyone going anywhere to view a parking lot

Are Santa Fe residents really so lazy they can't walk a few blocks?"

AUGUST 21. NO LEGAL ACTION PLANNED BY OSFA NOW. At the annual meeting of the Old Santa Fe Association, Meem says that legal action would be taken only after other courses of action are exhausted. "During the session, a letter from Mayor Leo T. Murphy was read, which asked the Association's cooperation in establishing a 'historical sites commission' to help determine which buildings here are worthy of preservation. Following the reading, one of the members stood up and labeled the letter 'sheer hypocrisy', a comment which brought loud applause from the other members."

AUGUST 22. Under a photograph of a sign inscribed, "Future Home of Ye Olde Historical Parking Lot Founded MCMLX" — "BIG SIGN. The sign shown above was left sometime Friday night in front of the Nusbaum building on Washington Ave., which

—continued on page 23

FOTOGRAF CIRCA 1895



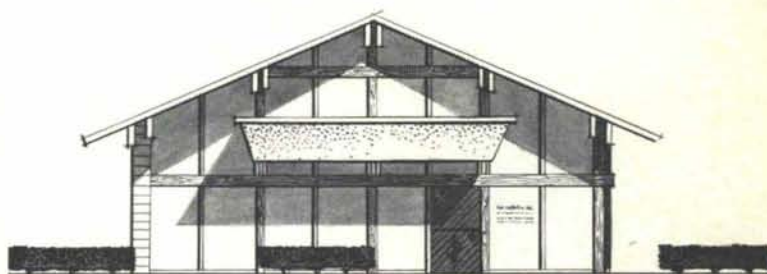


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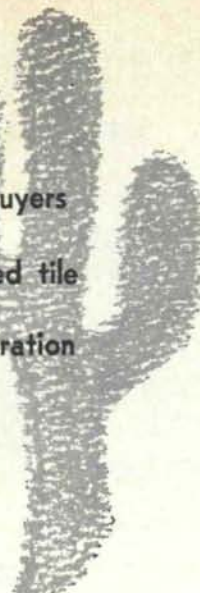
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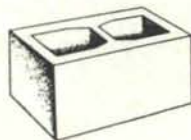


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is to be razed and converted to a parking lot by the city. The sign measured about four feet by eight feet, and rested on a sturdy wooden frame."

AUGUST 24. Legal advertisement, Section 1, Advertisement for Bids. "Municipal Parking Lot at Nusbaum Street and Washington Avenue, Phase 1. The City Council of the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico will receive sealed bids for the removal and disposal of building on the proposed Municipal Parking lot on the Southeast corner of Washington Avenue and Nusbaum Street . . ."

AUGUST 30. TO BLOCK DEMOLITION. "The Old Santa Fe Assn. notified the mayor and the city council today it will file a court suit asking a writ of mandamus to block the proposed demolition of the Nusbaum building . . ."

The legal point which the OSFA hopes to have decided by the action is whether the city council must follow the procedures established by city ordinances or whether it is legally 'supreme' and thus able to bypass these procedures . . .

In his letter to city officials, Meem again asked the council to reverse its decision to tear down the old building and stated that the Association's offer still stands to pay \$350 monthly as our share of the \$600 monthly lease for the right to restore the building . . .

SEPTEMBER 1. COUNCIL SLAMS DOOR ON PLEA—OSAF FILES SUIT TO DELAY RAZING OLD NUSBAUM HOUSE. "The Old Santa Fe Assn. today carried its battle to save the old Nusbaum building to the courts, after the city council last night slammed the door on the OSFA request for a stay of execution for the structure on Washington Ave.

As expected, an alternative writ of mandamus was obtained this morning by the Association and its president, John Gaw Meem, from Dist. Judge James Scarborough refraining the city from tearing down the Nusbaum building.

The writ, which names the city, Mayor Leo Murphy, councilmen, Building Inspector Mel Hagman and City Mgr. Marion Sebastian, directs them 'to perform their duties in accordance with controlling statutes and ordinances' and to obtain or acquire an application for a permit and to submit it to the Historical Style Committee and the Planning Commission.

In addition to refraining the city from demolition, the writ also refrains constructing on the property 'until a permit is granted' or 'to show cause' at 2 p.m., Sept. 13, in the courthouse here why the city should 'not do so and why the writ should not be made permanent.'

The council last night, on the motion of Alderman Orlando Fernandez, voted unanimously to follow through with plans for razing the structure to make room for a second municipal parking lot at the location adjacent to city hall . . .

Meem requested that the council hold up demolition of the old adobe building until a planning

group, already engaged to draw up a master plan for the city can complete a study and submit a report as to the feasibility and value of a parking facility at the Washington Ave. location.

The Association spokesman even offered to pay the rent (\$600 monthly under the lease arrangement) during the period it would take to complete the study"

SEPTEMBER 20. Editorial: CITY HALL FORGETS A LESSON. "Those who make up Santa Fe's solidly Democratic city administration seem to have forgotten a lesson residents of this town once taught the Republican Party.

The lesson was that Santa Fe citizens will tolerate an arrogant attitude at the city hall only so long. The Republicans learned the hard way, being exiled from the city hall for a decade by fed-up voters . . .

The grim-jawed determination of the Mayor and City Council to build a parking lot between City Hall and the Greer Building, whether the public likes it or not, has been a disturbing thing to watch.

In this single-minded drive, the Mayor and Council have ignored the procedures prescribed in the city's ordinances. They have ignored the recommendation of the City Planning Commission—and they have ignored expressions of public opinion which have indicated overwhelming public disapproval of the project.

Wednesday night's performance of the council was the low point of this entire affair.

We can think of no possible explanation or excuse for the council's summary rejection of a proposal by John Gaw Meem that demolition of the old Nausbaum building and clearing of the parking lot be postponed until completion of a comprehensive city planning study now being made

The good sense of delaying construction of a city parking lot until completion of a study to determine where such lots should be located is obvious, to say the least. Why else spend \$60,000 for such a planning report?

Members of the Planning Commission have serious doubts about the Nausbaum location. They question whether it is large enough to be economically feasible. They question the wisdom of locating the lot with its entrance-exit on Washington Avenue in the block that already produces one of the city's worst traffic jams every afternoon. They question the wisdom of locating this lot, which can only further serve to slow traffic, immediately adjoining the emergency exits of the police and fire departments.

In the early stages of locating this second municipal parking lot, city officials made it clear that there was no particular hurry and that it was intended more to satisfy future demands than current needs.

Why the hurry now? Why doesn't the council want to wait for completion of the current planning study?"

—to be continued

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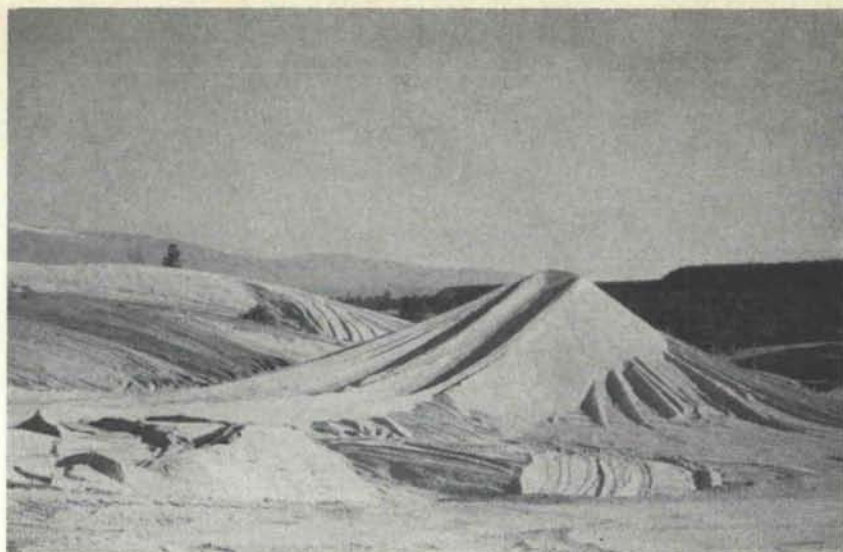


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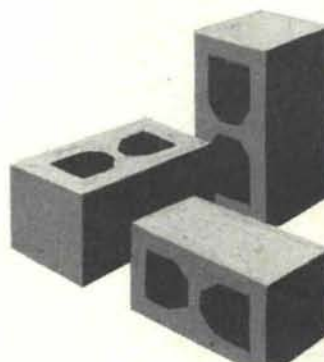
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—continued from page 6 NOTES AND NEWS

preservation fight on the home front. Work done by staff and architectural students of the UNM in recording historic buildings was reviewed and a standard short form for recording significant New Mexican buildings was established. The UNM was designated as the regional repository for these records. A field trip to important historic architectural sites (the first we hope of a series) was planned for September 18 in Santa Fe.

Regional Meetings of the A.I.A. Two regional meetings of the A.I.A. are planned for mid-autumn in this area, one in El Paso and a second in Tucson. The ninth annual conference of the Western Mountain District of A.I.A. will convene October 26-29 in Tucson. Speakers will include Carl Feiss, leading urban planner, Philip Will, president of A.I.A., and James Hunter, an A.I.A. vice-president. The theme of the conference is pertinent "Architecture and Planning for Arid Regions." Also scheduled is a post-conference tour to Mexico City.

The El Paso meeting on November 2, 3 and 4 will be an international gathering. Sponsored jointly by the Sociedad de Arquitectos Mexicanos and the Texas Society of Architects, this meeting is entitled "Architecture for the Americas." Specifically problems of "Collaboration in Planning Between Our Nations" will be discussed, and the gathering will be addressed by the presidents of national architectural organizations in both Mexico and this country. The social life will also be international with diversions planned in both El Paso and Ciudad Juarez.

advertisers index

Albuquerque Blueprint Company	8
Albuquerque Gravel Products Company	8
Albuquerque Testing Laboratory	21
American Marietta Company	11
Arkla Air Conditioning Corp.	3
The John Barnes Company	17
The Barnes Company, Inc.	17
Blue Streak Reproductions	10
Blumcraft of Pittsburgh	5
Bordenave Construction Co., Inc.	24
Brown Pipe & Supply	23
Builders Block & Stone Co., Inc.	27
Builders Block & Supply Co., Inc.	27
The Centerline, Inc.	21
Crego Block Company	10
The Harry I. Davis Company	22
Desert Ceramic Corporation	22
Eckerts', Incorporated	21
Electrical Products Company of New Mexico	10
Everstone Products, Inc.	8
General Pumice Corporation	24
Jay Gear, Inc.	21
Kinney Brick Company, Inc.	23
Marvel Roofing Products, Inc.	23
McCaffrey-Way Materials & Supply Co., Inc.	26
Miller & Smith Mfg. Co., Inc.	27
Monarch Tile Manufacturing Inc.	2
Mountain States Telephone	25
New Mexico Marble & Tile Company	24
Edgar D. Otto & Son, Inc.	25
Portland Cement Association	7
Public Service Company of New Mexico	2
Southern Union Gas Company	9
Southwest Vermiculite Company	11
Southwestern Master Craftsmen	6
Stryco Sales, Inc.	8
Vanguard Weather Fend Company	26
Welch-Erwin Corporation	6
Western Empire Builders Supply	22