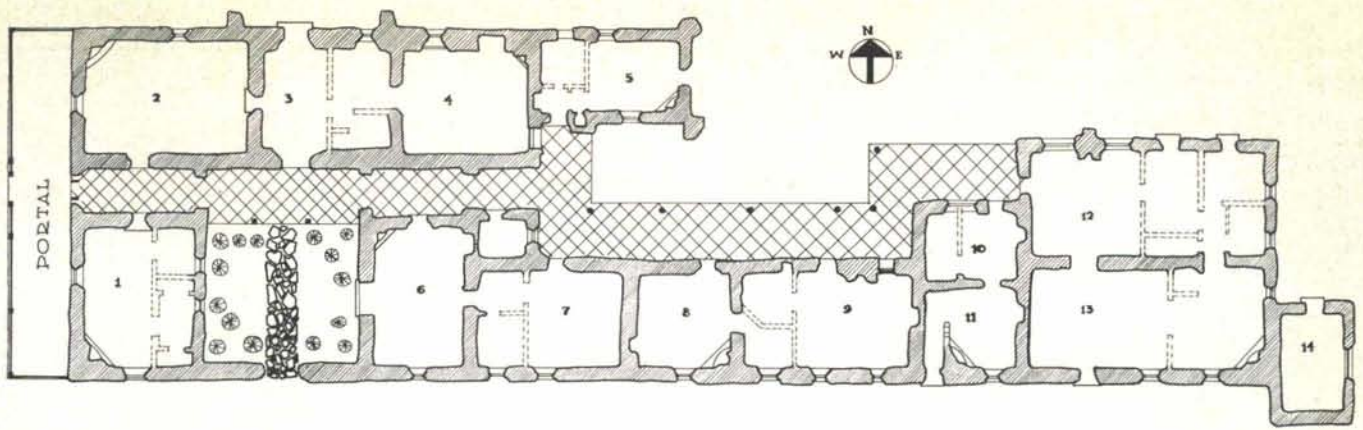




Photographs, Bainbridge Bunting

Line drawings, Bartlett Gilbert





“EL ZAGUAN”

Santa Fe, N. M.

The visitor or architect in quest of old Santa Fe inevitably finds his way to Canyon Road. Although the street as a whole has a charming character, thanks to an engaging sequence of architectural forms and an unpredictable building line, specific houses of architectural merit and genuine antiquity are rare. One may wander for blocks without being able to single out a particular house of distinction. At 545 Canyon Road, however, the visitor inevitably stops in admiration before the long rambling Territorial house. This old mansion, called “El Zaguan,” has long been regarded as one of the show places of New Mexico.

Originally it was the home of James Johnson, one of the first Yankee merchants to settle permanently in Santa Fe. Mr. Johnson purchased the property in 1849 but this should not suggest that the house as it appears today dates from that time. Variations in wall thickness (two to four feet), changes in ceiling height and construction and differences in trim indicate that the place was built over a period of time.

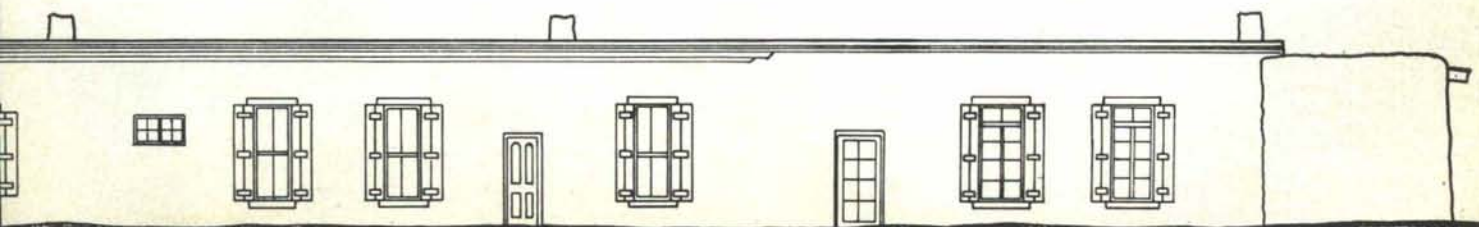
Several rooms were on the land which Mr. Johnson bought. Although conjecture, one might suspect that these were the file of rooms, #7-8-9 and possibly #10-11. The larger scale and the somewhat greater degree of formality in plan would suggest rooms #1 and #2-3-4 to be later additions, probably the late 1860's when so much building activity was afoot in the Territory. The pedimented window and door frames, the glass in the double-hung windows and the trim of the west *portal* suggest such a date. Rooms #12 and 13, despite later remodeling, may also have been added in the nineteenth century. Rooms #5 and #12 probably

were added later. However the danger of trying to reconstruct the life of an adobe building is perilous.

A good many of the interior doors connecting rooms in sequence have been blocked up, but their presence is still announced by closets or deep shelves. Probably in the 1920's new windows were installed in most east portions of the structure and the porches of both patios were rebuilt. The oldest surviving trim, the only of unusual architectural interest, is to be found in rooms at the west end. The adobe fireplaces, although following old designs, were also probably rebuilt.

The plan of El Zaguan is informal. Essentially the house wraps itself around two patios. The central patio serves as the entry from the street and about it are grouped the larger, more formal rooms. The east patio, which opens into a kind of terrace, was the center of household activities. The west *portal* and its formal garden are at the end of the long corridor, or *zaguan*, which runs the entire length of the house and gives it its name. Appropriately the library, #1, and the main sala, #2 were situated in this area.

The handsomest architectural feature of the house is the long *portal* that runs along the west facade and looks over the garden. The irregular spacing of the columns and unsymmetrical fenestration are in keeping with the usual informality of Territorial architecture. Particularly charming are the simple decorative accents which have been achieved with a few home-cut wooden moldings applied to posts or door trim as a faint recall of the columns, architraves or pediments of the Classical style. The lattice along end of the *portal* nearest the street is a simple decorative feature that





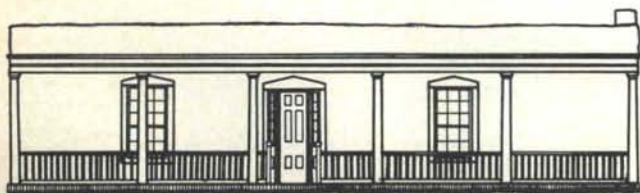
provides privacy and clarifies the relation between public and private areas.

The mansion's other interesting feature is the main corridor that, beginning with the east patio, moves through the center of the house, fusing with the entrance patio and prolonging onto the west *portal* (see illustration). This space has a charming ambiguity, and the viewer is never certain whether he is inside or out.

Despite these architectural features, the real merit of "El Zaguan" lies in the placement of the house on its site — or better still, the manner in which the house seems to have grown out of its location. Situated on a long, narrow terrace, the structure is closely bound by the road on one side and a high terrace on the other. From this terrace one drops down to the level of the once open fields.

The late owner, Mrs. Margretta S. Dietrich, about 1948 compiled a brief history of the house from assorted legends and documents. According to this, the house which today consists of fourteen rooms at one time contained twenty-four. This included a chapel (#5), a special "chocolate room" and Mr. Johnson's library (#1) which once housed the largest collection of books in the Territory. The services of a resident carpenter are said to have been required to make doors, windows and furniture for the mansion. Servant quarters for the establishment were located across from the house on the south side of Canyon Road. The west garden, according to this account, was laid out with the advice of Adolf Bandelier; peony bushes were imported from China and the horse chestnut trees brought from the midwest.

The subsequent history of the place has been checkered, often melodramatic. The Johnson heirs forfeited the house about the time of the First War. For a while "El Zaguan" served as a desirable *pensione*. In the twenties it was restored under the direction of Kate (Mrs. Kenneth) Chapman who advised on the restoration of many old Santa Fe homes. Mrs. Dietrich bought "El Zaguan" in the late twenties and although she divided it into seven apartments, she respected the nineteenth century character of the old place. Her recent death again raises the question of the building's future. It is a landmark that must be preserved. —Bainbridge Bunting



*at
your
service*

Blue Prints
White Prints
Photocopies
Architects Supplies
Engineers Supplies
Pickup & Delivery

Blue Streak Reproductions

417 4th N.W.
CH 7-9565

128 Quincy N.E.
AL 5-8606

New Mexico's PLASTIC CENTER

FINE PLASTIC SINK, CABINET
and COUNTER TOPS

CUSTOM DESKS, CONFERENCE TABLES,
BARS and BACK BARS

FABRICATED BY CRAFTSMEN IN OUR
PLASTIC TOP DEPARTMENT

Jay Grear, Inc.

1222 Edith NE

CH 7-0131

COMMON
BRICK
FACE
BRICK

HOLLOW
STRUCTURAL
TILE
SCR and HOLLOW
BRICK

distributors for

acme
BRICK COMPANY

samples & literature
on request

KINNEY BRICK COMPANY, INC.

P. O. Box 86
Ph. TRinity 7-1130
Office at Brick & Tile Works
5 Miles South on Second Street
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**BETTER
Weatherstrips
Caulking
Installation
Service
Cooperation**



Vanguard
WEATHER FEND CO.
Leaders in Weather Protection

P. O. Box 1421
1910 Broadway NE
Albuquerque, N. M.
Phone CH 3-4361

LEGGETTE - BRYANT, Inc.
Albuquerque

- Acoustical Contractors and Distributors
- Zonolite Insulating Roof Decks
- Asbestospray Fireproofing and Acoustical
- Pella Wood Folding Doors and Partitions
- Movawall Movable Partitions
- Lemlar Sun Control Louvres
- Cepco Translucent Ceilings

DEPENDABLE AND BONDABLE

CHapel 3-7845

New Mexico's
Most Complete Line of
Materials and Supplies

- **Supplies for
Contractors**
- **Construction
Materials**
- **Municipal
Supplies**

McCaffrey-Way
Materials & Supply Co., Inc.
2107 Menaul Blvd., NE
Diamond 4-1681



**NEW MEXICO DISTRIBUTORS
FOR RUSSWIN HARDWARE**

Let Jerry Shultz, AHC, our Specialist, assist you with your hardware problems.

Southwest Builders Hardware

Division of

**NEW MEXICO MARBLE
AND TILE CO., INC.**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

243-5541

414 2nd St., S.W.



McHugh & Hooker & Kidder & Assoc., architectural consultants

*St. Bernadette Catholic Church
in Albuquerque*

the **BANES**

COMPANY, INC.

4322 SECOND N.W., ALBUQUERQUE
700 WEST PAISANO DR., EL PASO



Shows at a glance how manufactured panels and structurals can support architectural styling to create a total impression of beauty, strength and rightness for the purpose of the building.



VERSATILE LUNDIA easily converts into wardrobe cabinets, storage bins, etc. using hang rods, doors, bin dividers, backs, etc. available from stock.

prefabricated : adjustable WOOD STORAGE SHELVING



1 Using common tools, team of inexperienced men erect 448 sq. ft. of prefabricated and adjustable LUNDIA storage shelving in continuous wall run.



2 37 minutes later . . . shelves are loaded with stock. All shelves, regardless of size, hold 500 lb. loads and are adjustable, at 2" intervals, without tools. 48 different combinations of depth, height and width.



**PREFABRICATED
ADJUSTABLE
WOOD SHELVING**

**CLIP
and
MAIL**

KACHINA DISPLAYS

5206 Second Street, N.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico

Yes . . . we want a copy of your new LUNDIA catalog and prices!

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____