

Bulletin...

*The
Historic*

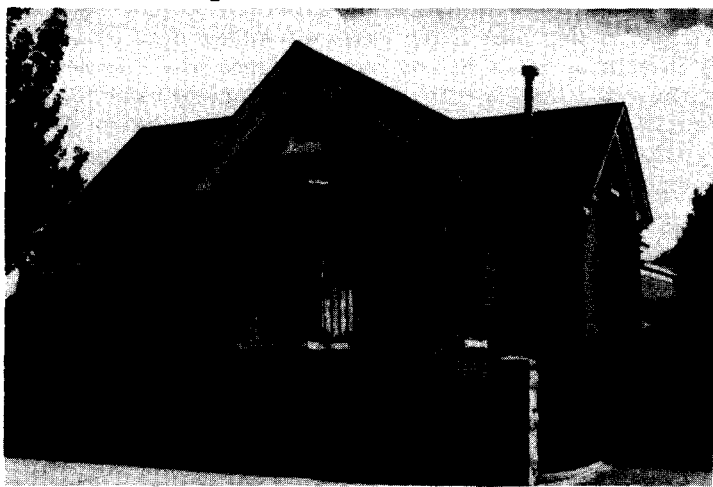


*Santa Fe
Foundation*

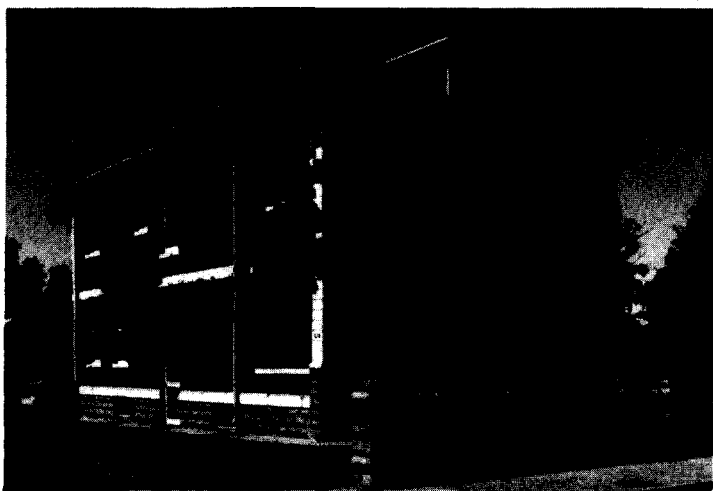
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No. 2



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

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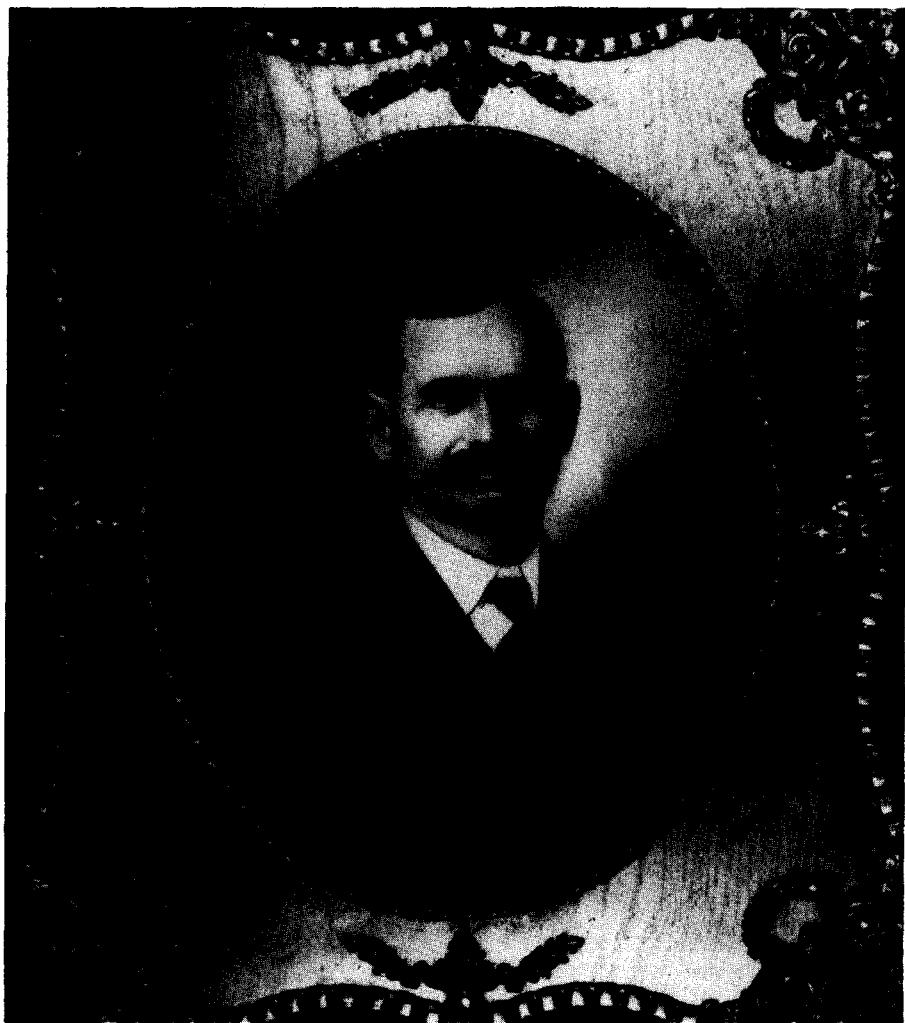
On the south side of Paseo de Peralta just across from the New Mexico State Capitol stand two handsome brick houses, the former residences of Carlo Digneo. In excellent condition and showing superior craftsmanship throughout, they are interesting examples of turn-of-the-century architecture. Without 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 woodwork 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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- Santa Fe County Records, Santa Fe County Court House, County Clerk's Records; Deed Books, O, Q, C-1, L-2, 12, 165 - Misc.
- Santa Fe County Records, State Records Center and Archives; Santa Fe County Assessment Rolls, 1884-1912 (microfilm copy); Santa Fe County Death Register, 1907-1928; Santa Fe Board of Education Minutes, 1899-1909.
- Federal Census Report, Santa Fe County, New Mexico, 1880 (microfilm copy), State Records Center and Archives.
- Bernalillo County Records, County Commissioners Journal, 1881-1888.
- Bohme, Frederick G. "The Italians in New Mexico," *New Mexico Historical Review*. Vol. 34, No. 2, April, 1959.
- Bunting, Bainbridge and Joe McKinney. "Hodgin Hall," form prepared for National Register of Historic Places, State Records Center and Archives.
- Historic Santa Fe Foundation. *Old Santa Fe Today*. Albuquerque, 1972.
- 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.

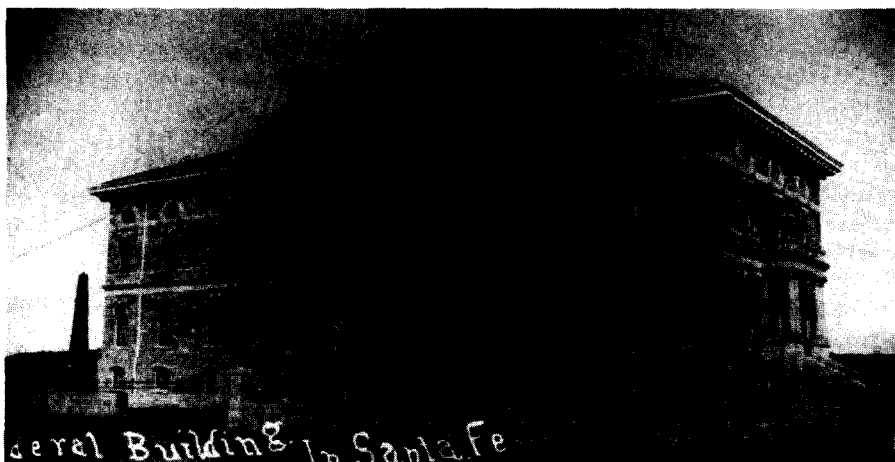
ciénega Area of springs; marshy region.

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.

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)

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 Steaksith
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