



# HISTORIC TOUR

Historic Santa Fe Foundation Annual Tour 2008

Sunday, May 11, 1:00 until 4:00 pm

## Barrio de Analco: Survivor of our Past



*De Vargas Street west of Old Santa Fe Trail taken from St. Michael's School. Courtesy Palace of the Governors (MNM/DCA) #011364 undated.*

The Barrio de Analco is one of Santa Fe's oldest and most historic neighborhoods. Through the years it has survived many threats. In Colonial times it suffered from great floods and Indian raids. More recently, it was almost lost to proposed expansion of the state capitol in the 1950s, Urban Renewal in the 1960s and capitol expansion again in the 1970s. Because of these threats, the Historic Santa Fe Foundation placed numerous Barrio de Analco properties on its Registry starting in the early 1960s in an attempt to give them greater protection. The San Miguel Church and the "Oldest" House are the newest additions to the Foundation's Registry.

In Spanish times, the Barrio de Analco was a suburb extending along the south side of the Santa Fe River from the Santuario Guadalupe east to Paseo de Peralta. It contained homes and farm plots for Indians who worked for the Spaniards. The fields were irrigated by the Acequia de Analco (irrigation ditch) which has since disappeared.

The Barrio began to develop between 1620 and 1640 when Tlaxcalan and other Mexican Indians who served the Spaniards settled here around the Chapel of San Miguel. The quarter was destroyed in the Pueblo revolt of 1680. Most of the Indian residents fled to El Paso with the Spaniards and never returned. Non-Puebloan Indians who served the Spanish, known as the *Genizaro*, settled in the Barrio during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and a number of them lost their homes in a severe flood in the 1760s.

Urban Renewal, a contentious program that provided federal funds to local municipalities for the removal of "blight," came to Santa Fe in the 1960s. Quite a drama erupted during this effort. Early plans called for the removal of most historic properties south of the Santa Fe River. Architects John Gaw Meem and William Lumpkins led an effort to preserve the area on behalf of The Old Santa Fe Association (OSFA). The Historic Santa Fe Foundation's role was to nominate

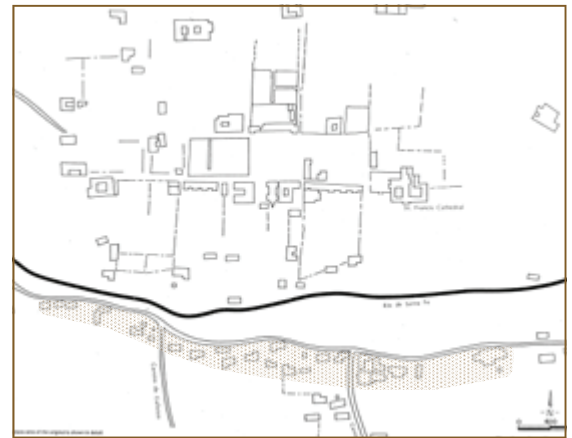


*De Vargas Street looking west from near the Boyle House and Garden at 327 East De Vargas. Courtesy Palace of the Governors (MNM/DCA) #042884 undated.*

the area for placement on the National Register of Historic Places so we hired the young Marc Simmons to survey the district. Foundation shield-shaped plaques quickly began to adorn old buildings of merit; the Boyle House, the Kaune Bandelier House, the Gregorio Crespín House and the Roque Tudesqui House. There were also urban renewal targets north of the river. Others saved and placed on our Registry were the Loretto Chapel, the Nicholas Ortiz House and the Antonio Ortiz House.

The Curry House, thought to be part of an old *torreon* in the west portion of the Barrio, was considered a particularly important building to save, but it stood in the way of the City's Urban Renewal Authority (URA) plan to straighten Sandoval Street. Lumpkins

presented an alternative plan for the street that would spare the Curry House. Frustrated that he might not get his way, URA Director Cleatus Roberts removed the house's tenants on a Saturday and bulldozed the property on a Sunday. Marc Simmons remembers that everyone was on the plaza at Spanish Market and word got around that they were razing the Curry House so they all ran over to watch in disbelief. Director Roberts' underhanded act inflamed the community. OSFA gathered 1,200 signatures calling for his removal and created a hysterical parade float featuring Roberts hanging from gallows.



*Facsimile of map created by Spanish Engineer Joseph de Urrutia in about 1767. In it, the Barrio de Analco is densely populated.*

After surviving approximately 350 years of Indian raids, floods and neglect, much of the west portion of the Barrio de Analco was lost to Urban Renewal. The district along De Vargas Street and Old Santa Fe Trail are only a fragment of a larger once thriving community.