

Bulletin...



Vol. 2

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No. 2



THE A. M. BERGERE HOUSE

135 Grant Avenue

*Cultural Properties Review Committee
State Planning Office Files, State Records Center and Archives,
Santa Fe, New Mexico*

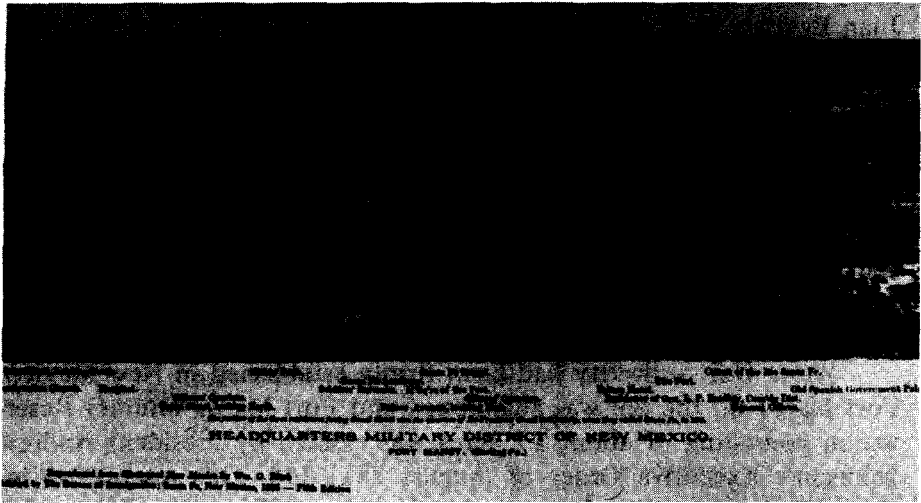
On August 18, 1846, Brigadier-General Stephen Watts Kearny accepted the peaceful surrender of New Mexico from Acting Governor Juan Bautista Vigil y Alarid. The following day, Kearny ordered Lieutenants William H. Emory and Jeremy F. Gilmer to reconnoiter Santa Fe for a location suitable for the construction of a fort. A site northeast of the town was quickly selected and an adobe fort named for Secretary of War William L. Marcy was built. Buildings north of the Palace of the Governors which were used earlier to house troops during both the Spanish and Mexican periods were also utilized by the Army of Occupation. These structures were bounded by Grant Avenue on the west, Federal Place on the north, Washington Avenue on the east and Palace Avenue on the south.

After U.S. authority had been firmly established in New Mexico, Fort Marcy on the hill was abandoned and Fort Marcy Military Reservation consisting of about 17 acres was created by President Andrew Johnson's Executive Order of August 28, 1868. This reservation incorporated the earlier Spanish and Mexican military quarters which were subsequently razed and replaced by new and larger military structures.

Quarters for the commanding officer were established north of the Palace of the Governors and fronting Washington Avenue where the Santa Fe National Bank is now located. Six other adobe houses for officers of lesser rank and their families were also constructed utilizing a modification of the U.S. Army's standard "Plan C." These six homes consisting of two-story buildings with cross-gable roofs were symmetrically positioned with half facing Grant Avenue. Of these six structures, only the Bergere House at the northwestern corner and the Fort Marcy Officer's Residence (commonly known as the Edgar Lee Hewett House) and situated at the southeastern corner have survived.



The A. M. Bergere House on extreme left as it appeared in 1873.



The activities at Fort Marcy Military Reservation were somewhat limited and consisted mainly of presenting band concerts and firing gun salutes for such occasions as the misnamed "Tertio-Millennial Celebration of 1882." One of the few highlights in the post's history was the visit of General and former President Ulysses S. Grant, Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Fred Grant during July of 1880. The distinguished party visited both Las Vegas and Santa Fe and while in the capital city, was furnished quarters in the Bergere House by the military!

With little apparent need for the post, the Army abandoned Fort Marcy Military Reservation on October 10, 1894 and the post "was by Executive Order of June 15, 1895, placed under the custody of the Interior Department for disposal under the Act of July 5, 1884, being 'An Act to Provide for the disposal of abandoned and useless military reservations,'" Until disposal could be accomplished, the property was to be administered by the Governor of New Mexico in his capacity as Custodian of the Fort Marcy Abandoned Military Reservation.

During this period, the six officers' quarters were utilized by politicians and prominent New Mexicans as rent free residences. On June 3, 1899, Solomon Luna was granted permission to occupy the Bergere House. Whether he and his wife ever lived in the house is not known since Luna also maintained a large home at Los Lunas at this time. Possibly, the structure was acquired only for his mother, Isabel Baca de

Solomon Luna, son of merchant-farmer José Antonio Luna and his wife Isabel Baca, was a direct descendant of Domingo de Luna who settled in the Los Lunas area shortly after the Reconquest of New Mexico in 1693 by General Diego de Vargas Zapata Luján Ponce de León. Solomon, in addition to being a wealthy sheep raiser and president of the Bank of Commerce in Albuquerque, also held various important political offices including that of Valencia County probate clerk in 1885, sheriff in 1892 and treasurer in 1894. He was the most influential delegate serving in the Constitutional Convention of 1910. From 1896 until his death in 1912 he was a member of the National Republican Committee. His wife, Adelaida Otero de Luna, was the daughter of Manuel Rito Otero and the granddaughter of Antonio José Otero who was appointed as a justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court by Kearny.

The Lunas, Oteros and Chaveses were the three most influential and politically powerful families of the *Rio Abajo* (lower river) region during the Mexican and Territorial period. In addition to Solomon, the family also included Tranquilino, Jesús María, Luz and Eloisa. Jesús María was a captain in the New Mexico Militia, an Indian fighter and politician while his other brother Tranquilino engaged in sheep raising and was also politically active. He was delegate to the Republican National Conventions in 1880 and 1884; elected as a Republican to the 47th Congress (March 4, 1881—March 3, 1883); presented credentials as a Delegate-elect to the 48th Congress and served from March 4, 1883 until March 5, 1884, when he was succeeded by Francisco A. Manzanares, who contested his election; and sheriff of Valencia County 1888-1892. Tranquilino had one son, Maximiliano, who was a captain of Troop F 1st U.S. Vol. Cav. during the Spanish-American War and later drowned while serving in the Philippines.

Solomon's sister Luz married José María Romero while a second sister, Eloisa, married Manuel B. Otero in 1879. The nephew of previously mentioned Judge Antonio José Otero, Manuel B. Otero was a prominent rancher in the Los Lunas Area. At Estancia Springs in the summer of 1883, he was shot and killed by James G. Whitney in a dispute over a land grant.

The Otero-Luna marriage produced three children: Eduardo Manuel, prominent sheep raiser and politician; Adelina Isabel Emilia, superintendent of schools in Santa Fe County, candidate for Congress in 1922 and later an inspector at large for the Department of the Interior; and Manuel Basilio, Republican candidate for governor in 1924.

On August 15, 1886, three years after the death of her husband, Eloisa Luna Otero married Alfred Maurice Bergere. Born in Liverpool, England on October 10, 1859, Bergere was the son of Joseph Charles and Nina Bergere who were both of Italian ancestry. His father was the owner and builder of the first line of steamships sailing from Liverpool to the Mediterranean Sea. Alfred Bergere immigrated to the United States in 1872 and six years later moved to Valencia County where he was involved in mercantile, stock raising and insurance interests. A Republican, he also exhibited a keen interest in public affairs and served as chairman of the board of county commissioners for two years, county assessor for two years and county treasurer for six years.

In 1898 with the appointment of John R. McFie as judge of the first judicial district, Bergere became clerk of the district court and the family moved to Santa Fe. He held this position until his resignation in July of 1907. Bergere, who was at one time Register and Receiver of the U.S. Land Office, also served as secretary to U.S. Congressman Benigno Cardenas Hernandez who was representative at large from New Mexico (1915 to 1917 and again from 1919 to 1921). An accomplished musician, Bergere was active in the Knights of Columbus and during World War I, he traveled to France to perform with the Knights who provided entertainment for American Servicemen. Physically disqualified from serving in the earlier Spanish-American War, Bergere had offered to donate a hundred horses from his ranch at Galisteo to the United States Government.



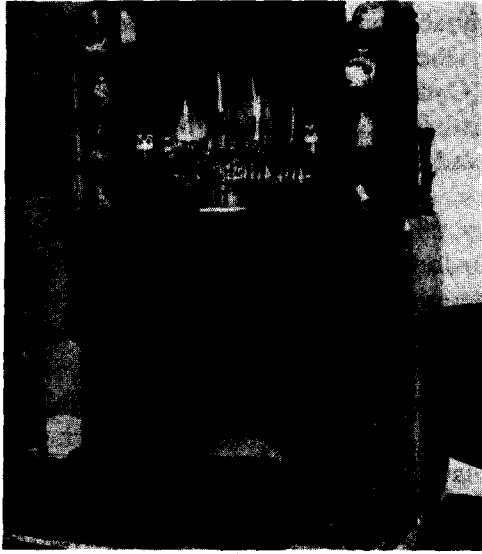
Original military fireplace in the A. M. Bergere House.

Nine children resulted from the marriage of Eloisa and Alfred Bergere: Anita Isabel Eloisa; Elvira Estella, who married Aldo Leopold; Mary Bernadita, who married John J. Kenney; Antonio José Luna; María Eduvigen Consuelo, who married Herbert Mendenhall; María Rosina, who married Leonard Smith; María Nestora Christina Ysabel; Joseph Charles; and María Dolores Bergere, who married Charles Carl Leopold.

On February 28, 1901, the Secretary of the Interior authorized Governor and Custodian Miguel A. Otero (Governor of New Mexico 1897-1906) to permit Bergere and his family to occupy a building on the Fort Marcy Abandoned Military Reservation as soon as one became available. In a letter dated May 4, of the same year, Governor Otero informed Binger Hermann, of the Dept. of the Interior that no houses were vacant but that A. M. Bergere was occupying the house assigned to his brother-in-law Solomon Luna. The Bergere House was the center for many social events in Santa Fe. For instance, on one occasion, the Bergeres gave a dinner party in honor of Governor Otero and his wife which was attended by former Governor L. Bradford Prince and Mrs. Prince, Captain and Mrs. Maximiliano Luna, as well as important attorneys and their wives.

On January 5, 1904, the Fort Marcy Abandoned Military Reservation was conveyed to the City of Santa Fe which in turn transferred the property to the Santa Fe Board of Education on the 9th of the following month. Eloisa purchased the house and the two lots from the board of education on December 22, 1905 for \$2,700. On October 29, 1912, Eloisa conveyed the property in trust to her son Eduardo Manuel Otero and after a brief illness, died on September 3, 1914. Alfred Bergere continued to live in the house until his own death on May 26, 1939. In 1932, Manuel Basilio Otero was placed in charge of the property and after his death in 1963, Nina Otero Warren (Adelina Isabel Emilia) administered the estate until her own death two years later. Anita Bergere (Anita Ysabel Eloisa) and May Kenney (Mary Bernadita Bergere) lived in the residence up to the time of their deaths within the last year.

At the time of construction, the A. M. Bergere House formed an "L" shaped structure having a cross gabled tin-pleated roof crowned with three fired brick chimneys. The exterior walls were adobe plastered and the two front corners were rectangularly etched to simulate dressed stone corner trim. A full porch supported by eight squared beams and having a wooden floor and decorative railing was situated on the front of the building, while an "L" shaped porch of similar construction, minus the railing, ran along the rear of the house. The original building



Marble fireplace in the A. M. Bergere House. Three such fireplaces were moved from Solomon Luna's house in Los Lunas.

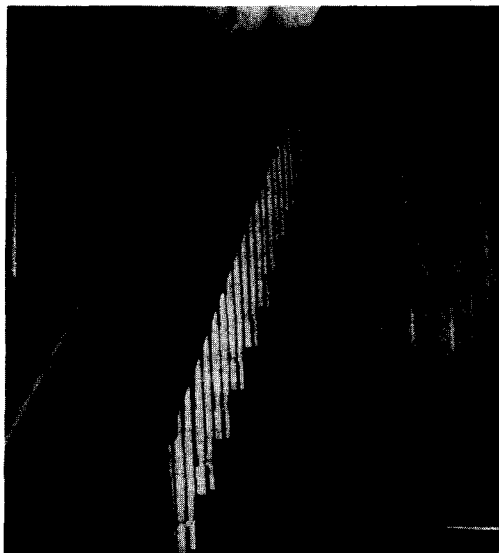
*Cultural Properties Review Committee
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Santa Fe, New Mexico*

also contained eighteen double hung windows with dark green shutters. The front door was framed with panels containing fourteen panes of glass and has not been altered. Four solid doors existed in the original structure and provided access to the rear porch from the southeastern corner room as well as the eastern wing or kitchen. Adjacent to the east wall of the kitchen were two small rooms which were most likely used as storerooms. The exterior of the A. M. Bergere House has been altered over the years. The cross-gabled roof on the main portion of the house was removed in 1926 and the upper story was squared and a flat roof added to make the structure conform to the Spanish-Pueblo style of architecture which was then experiencing a revival in the capital city. One result of this modification was the creation of five large bedrooms on the second floor. A new front porch as well as first floor windows, consisting of four large rectangular panes of glass and replacing the earlier twelve pane windows, were installed at this time. A sun room was added to the south and several small utility rooms and a bathroom were added on the east side of the structure where originally the rear porch was located. The small storage sheds were likewise modified in Spanish-Pueblo style and a single car garage was added to the east. The stables and tennis court constructed by Bergere no longer exist but the

Having a central hallway, the interior of the A. M. Bergere House has been somewhat altered. Of the original four wooden military fireplaces in the main portion of the house, only one is extant. Three marble fireplaces from Solomon Luna's home at Los Lunas have replaced the earlier military ones. A fifth fireplace in the original kitchen, which was converted into a master bedroom by the Bergeres and reused as a kitchen by their children, has been removed. Throughout the house hardwood flooring has been placed directly on the wooden plank flooring. However, much of the original interior door and window trim are still in place as well as some of the interior doors and accompanying hardware. The staircase situated in the central hallway has not been altered.

Located in downtown Santa Fe, the A. M. Bergere House has retained much of its original environment and as one of two surviving Fort Marcy Military Reservation officer's residences in addition to being the home of a politically and socially prominent New Mexico family is worthy of preservation.

James H. Purdy
October 7, 1976



Original military stairway in the A. M. Bergere House.

Sources:

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HISTORIC SANTA FE CARDS



Note cards of five historical buildings in Santa Fe are on sale at various local shops. A percentage of the profit from the sale of these cards goes toward the Tully House Fund. Get as many boxes of cards as you can — at only \$1.50/box. It is an easy way to help in "Funding" the Tully House project. Available wherever fine cards are sold or call Mrs. Gilliland at 983-8576.



Membership in the Historic Santa Fe Foundation is a significant contribution to the preservation of Santa Fe's heritage.

Be a member!

TERMS TO KNOW IN HISTORIC SANTA FE

fanega. Measure of wheat and other grain equivalent to 1½-2½ bushels.

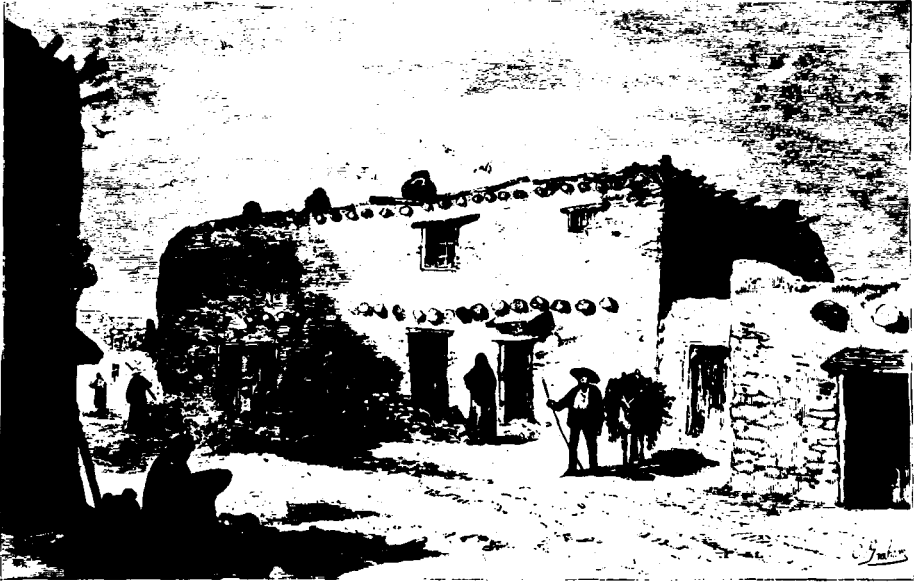
ayuntamiento. A town council.

garita. A sentry box or tower.

presidio. Permanent garrison of soldiers.

Old Santa Fe Today
University of New Mexico Press and
The Historic Santa Fe Foundation

SANTA FE YESTERDAY AND TODAY



The "Oldest House" at 215 East de Vargas Street as it appeared in *Harper's Weekly* on November 13, 1879.



The "Oldest House" today.

By Karl Kambhampati reproduced in *Old Santa Fe Today*

DONNA E. QUASTHOFF • ARCHITECT

MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
P. O. BOX 2145 • TELEPHONE 505 983-8256 • SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

October 25, 1976

Davis & Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 2184
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

RE: Tully House, Santa Fe, N.M.
Proj. No. B-75-HN-35-0006 (C-12)

Gentlemen:

You are hereby directed this date to proceed with the construction of the renovation of the Tully House, Santa Fe, New Mexico, in accordance with the contract documents and specifications.

Work shall commence within 10 days of date stipulated in this "Notice to Proceed" and shall be substantially complete within 150 calendar days thereafter.

Yours very truly,



DONNA E. QUASTHOFF
A.I.A.

DEQ:gp

cc: Michael R. Trujillo, Community Development Program
Dr. Edward S. Cook
William A. Sawtell

November 4, 1976

This letter marks another momentous occasion for our glorious city of Santa Fe. After many years of delicate negotiations, blood, sweat and tears, the Tully House is now being renovated to its territorial appearance.

It will be one of the best examples of early territorial architecture in the Southwest.

As chairman, I want to give a mighty thank you to all board members and contributors who have given so unselfishly of their time and great efforts to make this possible.

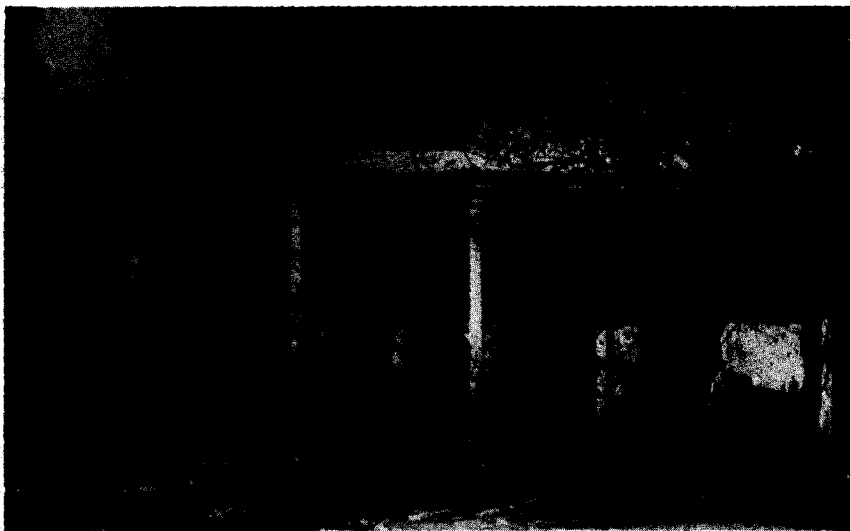
Warmest wishes for a beautiful holiday season.

Edward S. Cook, D.D.S.

**TULLY HOUSE
EXTERIOR RENOVATION GETS UNDERWAY**



**The Pinckney R. Tully House as it appeared in about 1890.
*Tunnell Collection, State Records and Archives,
Santa Fe, New Mexico***



**Tully House last winter.
*Cultural Properties Review Committee and State Planning Office Files,
Center and Archives,***

The front brick firewall is to be renovated and a southern firewall built as indicated in the c. 1890 photo.

Hope Curtis

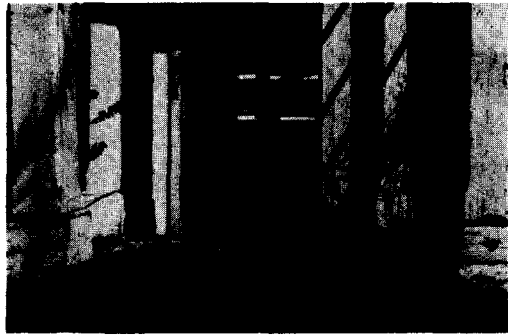


The roof which is also to be resurfaced shows that not all our potholes are in Santa Fe streets. The chimneys will also be renovated.

Hope Curtis

The side porch which is desperately in need of repair will receive extensive renovation.

Hope Curtis



All exterior wood will be refurbished and where necessary, replaced.

Hope Curtis