



# THE FENYES-CURTIN HOUSE

614 Acequia Madre

The Territorial Revival style Fenyes Curtin House was built in the summers of 1925 and 1926. Although named for the original builder Eva Scott Fenyes and her daughter Leonora Scott Muse Curtin this house is often referred to today as the Paloheimo House for Mrs. Fenyes's granddaughter Leonora Curtin Paloheimo who lived there until she died in 1999.

The three generations of occupants were extraordinary women. Mrs. Fenyes was a masterful watercolorist who documented over 300 early California missions and adobe houses between 1898 and 1930. Leonora Curtin was a recognized expert in Spanish Colonial and Indian arts, artifacts, and cultural tradition, and the author of several

articles and two books, based on extensive field work. Leonora Curtin Paloheimo played a major role in the preservation and revival of native Spanish arts and crafts. One of her greatest contributions was the creation of the exceptional museum of Spanish Colonial life, El Rancho de las Golondrinas which she established with her husband, George Paloheimo.

Mrs. Fenyes was the daughter of Leonard Scott, owner of the Scott Publishing Company. She first visited Santa Fe in 1889 with her daughter Leonora. She returned often in the first part of the century.

After living in rented quarters and for a time in houses she built on Hillside Avenue and Cerro Gordo, Mrs. Fenyes purchased the large parcel on Acequia Madre. The family built four small houses on seven parcels facing San Antonio Street and the family home sits on the remaining almost four acres.

Unhappy with proposed designs from two different architects, the house, in the end, was designed by the three women and architect A. Rossiter created the construction drawings. It was completed by builder Charles Campbell of adobe bricks that were manufactured on site with six inches of dirt on the roof for insulation.

The house has changed very little since it was built. The original sleeping porch on the west side was remodeled into an office and library in 1930. In the late 1930s, architect William Lumpkins designed a small addition to the bedrooms in the back of the house. The house's furnishings are original.

The property is being preserved under Trusts established by the Paloheimos.



Top: "Our Santa Fe Home" by Eva Scott Fenyes

Left: September, 1919. Seated on chairs left to right Mrs. Rolshoven, Mrs. Leonora S. M. Curtin, Mr. Rolshoven, Mrs. Rollins, and Mrs. Eva Scott Fenyes. Front row, kneeling and sitting on the ground are left to right Leonora F. Curtin (later Paloheimo), R. Rollins, Homer Grunn (he was a musician), and Marsden Hartley.