

## **IF THESE STONES COULD SPEAK:**

### **The Santiago E. Campo U.S. Courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**by Saul Cohen**

They tell me that titles are very important. Author story. My title does not mean anything, it is just an attempt at a catchy title. If these stones could speak, I have no idea what they would say. They might even speak Tewa.

My talk is a sketch for a biography of this building. Four general observations can be made: (1) this building could not be built today – it clearly violates the Historic District ordinance; (2) John Gaw Meem had nothing to do with it; (3) it was a tremendous accomplishment for its day; and (4) it is a splendid building, not fully appreciated.

Not only is the building rather magnificent, but there is something special about this room. One feels one is in a temple of some kind, just as the outer architecture suggests a temple of ancient Greece. It is a temple of justice. It even has something of the feeling of an orthodox synagogue, since there is a separate second story. That's where the women sit in an orthodox synagogue. Here it was intended to be a gallery for spectators. Trials were entertainment in small towns as they are once again in the global village we live in. What's the name of that case – I. J. Samson or something like that?

In order to understand the history of this building, you need to know some basic things about our legal system, as well as some New Mexico history. You probably all do. We have a federal system in the United States, which means that there are two parallel court systems. One is the state court system which begins with the magistrate or justice of the peace or municipal courts and moves up to the general trial courts (which in our state are called district courts; in

some states they are called superior courts; in New York they're called the supreme court); and then to the appellate courts. We have two levels of appellate courts in our state system: the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. The federal or United States system of courts is divided into districts at the trial level and circuits at the appellate level. The trial courts are called district courts (the same name as our state courts) and the state of New Mexico is one district. There is a court of appeals, graced in the 10th Circuit by Judges Seth and Kelly, and there is the United States Supreme Court. There are also some specialized courts.

In 1846, when we sort of start our story, life in Santa Fe was simpler. Disputes were settled with the help of a priest or the alcalde, and lawyers were almost non-existent. The lawyers came soon enough.

Since New Mexico was neither a state nor officially organized as a territory from 1846 to 1851 it had no state or territorial court system, but only a three-man court established by General Kearny in the Kearny Code, officially "Laws of the Territory of New Mexico." General Kearny selected two lawyers from Missouri to write the Code – Col. Alexander William Doniphan of the Missouri Volunteers, an extraordinary man, and Willard P. Hall, who was a private in the Missouri Volunteers. It was translated into Spanish by Captain David Waldo, also of the Missouri Volunteers, a doctor who had become a merchant. (He was the uncle of the Henry L. Waldo of Albuquerque highway turnoff fame.) The Code was promulgated on September 22, 1846. It was printed in Spanish and English in parallel columns. The printer, Oliver Perry Hovey, did not receive his full payment of \$1,705 (for 500 copies) until twelve years had passed, perhaps an omen of things to come.

The first three judges, appointed by the President of the United States, were Joab Houghton as chief justice (a multi-talented man, whom we shall hear more about, but not a

lawyer) and as associate judges, Charles Beaubien and Antonio Jose Otero, also not lawyers. (Judge Houghton's clerk, James Giddings, was the great grandfather of Senior Judge Campos.) Otero was the only person of Spanish descent to sit on the territorial court during the sixty-six years of its existence, 1846 to 1912. Those of you who know your New Mexico history may recall that it was to Beaubien that Governor Manuel Armijo in 1841 granted a large tract of land which became famous as the Maxwell Land Grant.

Each of the three was a trial judge who presided over a judicial district, but the three together were the Supreme Court. An obvious weakness in the system was that the judge who heard the case originally was also one of the judges who decided any appeal, and he only needed to convince one of his colleagues that he had been right. There were not that many appeals, since it was a long trip to Santa Fe if you were elsewhere in the territory and you knew one of the three judges would vote against you.

In 1851 the military occupation ended and the Territory of New Mexico was officially organized. A new court was appointed, with Grafton Baker as chief justice and Horace Mower and John S. Watts as associate justices. Baker was learned in the law, unlike Houghton, but he knew nothing about New Mexico and its customs, and very quickly clashed with Bishop Lamy, who prevailed.

In Santa Fe, the earliest court sessions were held in rooms in the east end of the Palace of the Governors. After 1851, court was held in a building northeast of the plaza, about where the Howell Gallery is now.

Between 1846 and the 1880s the territory was divided into three judicial districts and the chief justice lived in Santa Fe. Originally Santa Fe, San Miguel and Santa Ana counties composed the first judicial district. Mora, Colfax, Taos and Rio Arriba counties were added to

the first judicial district in 1860. A fourth district was added in the 1880s as the courts were falling behind in their work. As the population grew and as new counties were created, districts were rearranged and new districts created. By statehood, there were 7 districts.

The judges rode circuit in their districts. The circuit for the judges included all of the county seats of the counties in their district. The trips were usually made on horseback or by stagecoach. Court terms were staggered throughout the territory so Santa Fe lawyers could participate in trials in every district. Terms of court were conducted twice a year in each county in the district. It was not easy.

How law abiding was New Mexico during this period? Warren A. Beck, in his book, *New Mexico/A History of Four Centuries*, sums it up like this:

During the period following the Civil War and lasting approximately until the turn of the century, New Mexico experienced a wave of rampant lawlessness unparalleled in the history of the United States. It was an era when stealing, killing, and lynching were so common as to be hardly worthy of mention in the press. At one bar in Cimarron eleven men were reputed to have been killed in the course of a single month. A cemetery with forty-seven inhabitants could only number two as natural deaths. Every community had numerous gambling houses and the usual red light district. Other parts of the nation had experienced a breakdown in law and order, but in few areas had it lasted or been as complete as it was in the territory of New Mexico.

Perhaps it provides another link with the past that the new offices being occupied by Judge Paul Kelly of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals have something new in the window treatment: bullet proof glass.

During this period, all legislation was in Spanish and was translated into English. Arguments to the juries were usually in Spanish. Some lawyers objected who were not fluent in Spanish. Later some juries were composed of jurors who spoke no English or no Spanish and it was necessary to employ interpreters. There were 61 lawyers in New Mexico in 1881.

Perhaps the most famous of the judges during the territorial period was Kirby Benedict, characterized by Arie Poldervaart in his very useful book *Black-Robed Justice* as "the most bizarre of all New Mexico Territorial Supreme Court judges." Benedict was an interesting man who has been the subject of a full length biography. He had a little problem with alcohol, as we might put it today. Benedict was a friend of Abraham Lincoln's, who responded to efforts to have Benedict removed: "Well, gentlemen, I know Benedict. We have been friends for over thirty years. He may imbibe to excess, but Benedict drunk knows more law than all the others on the bench in New Mexico sober. I shall not disturb him."

That sets the stage. Let's turn now to our narrower topic, the impressive building in which we are meeting. Construction began in 1853. It was to be a "capitol" building, though it is sometimes referred to as a "Territorial Building" and even as a "State House." On February 28, 1853, the second Territorial Governor, William Carr Lane, wrote to Edward Everett, the Secretary of State. (That was an error; he should have written to the Secretary of the Treasury, but the letter, which reached Washington on April 1 (another link with the past), apparently did find its way into the right hands.) In the beautiful handwriting that one sometimes sees in letters of that period, Governor Lane wrote:

"I have the honor to submit for your consideration the plans and elevations of the Territorial Buildings [sic] to be erected at this place, which have been approved and adopted by the Commissioners appointed for that purpose at the last Session of the Legislative Assembly of this Territory. Also a letter from the Hon. Joab Houghton Supt. of Public Buildings enclosing an estimate of the probable cost of the buildings [sic] as shown by the plans and c.

As the appropriation made by Congress of \$20,000 for Public Buildings in this Territory is insufficient, on account of the difficulty of procuring the necessary materials, and the high price of labor, I confidently hope the Department will use every exertion to have an additional appropriation made by Congress, to secure for us a durable and appropriate building, in which the business of the Territory may be transacted.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt  
Wm Carr Lane  
Gov Terr N.Mex.

The letter enclosed from Joab Houghton to Governor Lane is dated February 26, 1853 and refers to the "proposed Territorial Building" and to "The Senate Chamber" and a "Hall of Representatives." Houghton enclosed a cost estimate for the building of \$68,150. Yes, it's the same Joab Houghton who a few years earlier was the chief justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court. As I said, he wasn't a lawyer, and he wasn't an architect either. Houghton had come to Santa Fe, from New York in 1844, and was appointed U.S. Consul. Though he had some training as a civil engineer, he engaged in merchandising with Eugene Leitensdorfer, said to be the leading mercantile house west of the Missouri River (their store was on the corner of San Francisco Street and Galisteo) and also practiced some law. Arie Poldervaart observed, "The novel combination of a civil engineer who, while practicing law, served as chief justice and engaged in commercial pursuits on the side, appears to have drawn no adverse comment from either the politicians or the newspapers of the day." During the Civil War he was the district attorney for New Mexico. In 1865 he was again appointed a judge. He was roundly criticized

for his ignorance of the law, his neglect of duties and his excessive partisanship against southerners, and a memorial by the legislative assembly sought his removal. He was removed in 1869. During all of his two terms on the bench, he wrote only one opinion. For the curious, it was Archibeque v. Miera, 1 NM 419. Houghton died in 1876, but his name lives on in the street named after him.

The three Commissioners of Public Lands to whom Governor Lane refers in his letter were Preston Beck, Jr., Manuel Alvarez and Francisco Ortiz y Delgado. On September 29, 1853 they wrote a long letter to James Guthrie, Secretary of the Treasury, to ask for an additional appropriation beyond the \$20,000 originally appropriated by Congress. It was the Commissioners who adopted the plans which were drawn by Joab Houghton. Describing the building in some detail, since the plans had been sent to the wrong official, they said: "First story above Basement divided into sixteen rooms for offices and the entire wing in rear to be occupied as Supreme and district Court rooms. The Basement divided into offices a part of them fire proof — two rooms under the Court room for jury rooms. The second story to be occupied by the halls of the two branches of the Legislature and their necessary offices." The letter states the outer walls are to be of lime stone and the inner partitions of brick. The basement walls were to be 4 feet thick, the first story walls 3 feet thick, and the second story 2½ feet thick. "The finish of the building externally and internally perfectly [sic] plain but substantial."

The letter continues that in the cost estimate of \$68,164 "a liberal margin has been allowed for contingencies peculiar to New Mexico. There exist no certain data [obviously not a new word] in this Territory upon which to base an estimate of such a work. No building of like description or of like materials has ever been attempted here. There are fine ledges of lime stone of excellent quality in many parts of the Territory and in the immediate vicinity of Santa Fe. Yet

no other material has ever been used for buildings than "adobes" or sun dried brick. There are no native mechanics capable of executing either Carpentry or Stone Masonry, and but few foreign, in a proper manner. In May last when the Commissioners desired to Commence the Masonry of the building not a single Stone Mason could be found in the Territory."

The Commissioners reported that they had advertised for three months in newspapers "of the principal Cities of the United States" inviting bids for the masonry work, but only 2 were received: one was from Missouri for \$10 a cubic yard for "rubble masonry," as the technique was called, and one from New Mexico for \$6.30 a cubic yard, and this bid was accepted. The only way the successful contractor could get stone masons was to ask the commanding officer "of this Department" for furloughs for 4 or 5 soldiers who were masons, and by this means he was able to start laying the foundation on September 18, 1853.

The Commissioners added that there are other difficulties: ". . . it must be born in mind that Santa Fe is more than 800 miles from the nearest navigable stream and that we possess no means of transportation except by wagons or pack animals. The transportation therefore of any heavy article to any distance is attended with enormous expense."

After summing up the difficulties and outlining the progress expected by November, the Commissioners continued: "Taking into consideration the peculiar difficulties encountered in the undertaking of this work and the absence of all facilities for such a work in this Territory, we trust that both the people of New Mexico and Congress will be satisfied that all has been accomplished with the appropriation that could be under the Circumstances."

Copies of all contracts entered into and minutes of all proceedings of the Commission were forwarded to the Treasury Department. An additional \$50,000 was requested. And with unwarranted optimism, the Commissioners stated that if the appropriation requested were made,

the building could be completed promptly. "They are assured that contracts for the whole work could be made with responsible persons for the completion of the entire building by the winter of 1854 or spring of 1855 for that amount."

Alas, it was not meant to be, and one is put in mind of Governor Lew Wallace's statement in 1880, "Every calculation based on experience elsewhere fails in New Mexico."

Construction was not completed until thirty-six years later, in 1889. The completed building consisted only of the front or southern wing. The rest of the building was added in 1929-1930. Additional funds were appropriated by Congress in 1854 (\$50,000), 1860 (\$60,000) and 1886 (\$52,000). The 1860 appropriation was never received, having been traded off for the exemption of New Mexico from direct Civil War taxes in 1862.

A number of things interfered with and slowed down the construction, including shortages of skilled labor, shortages of money and the Civil War. Construction was suspended during the Civil War and not resumed until 1882 when the original Greek Revival design was updated by Victorian standards. The author of a book on American courthouses comments on this trend: "More and more the well-established 'purity' of the Grecian was corrupted by novel detailing. To that it is hard to give any name other than 'Early Victorian,' even though the term is not very appropriate for what was developing in mid-century American court house design with little or no influence from Victorian England." Had it not been "updated," we would have had here what Bainbridge Bunting, in his book on early architecture in New Mexico, says would have been the only legitimate Greek Revival structure in the territory.

In order to imagine what it was like when construction started, you have to visualize that the Fort Marcy Military Reservation, including 4th Cavalry Headquarters and the 4th Cavalry Band ran from the Plaza, between Washington and Grant, all the way up to what is now Federal

Place. In addition to the Palace of the Governors, occupying this space were officers quarters, soldiers' barracks, corrals and parade ground. The treeless land on which the new building was located was part of a nine acre tract of public property acquired by the United States from the Mexican Government under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

There was a lot of correspondence between Santa Fe and Washington in the early years of the building's gestation. David Meriwether, who succeeded Governor Lane, wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury on December 16, 1855, "This in my opinion renders adobes an insecure building material, even in that country, indeed some ten or twelve houses constructed with this material in Santa Fe fell down during the last summer in consequence of unusually long continued rains . . . . Should the construction be built of stone instead of adobes, my opinion is that the change will add from twenty five to thirty percent to its cost and, that an additional appropriation of \$5,000 will be required to complete the edifice, . . . ." Not only was he off on the amount that would be needed for completion, but the building had been planned to be made of stone from the beginning. He was right about the rain. W.W.H. Davis confirms in *El Gringo* that the summers of 1854 and 1855 were unusually rainy periods and almost every house suffered.

You may recall that in 1883 there occurred one of the major events in the life of this building: Santa Fe celebrated its "Tertio-Millennial", officially "The Santa Fe Tertio-Millennial Anniversary Celebration and Grand Mining and Industrial Exposition." This was intended to be a celebration of the 333rd anniversary of the founding of Santa Fe, but it wasn't: the timing was off. Nevertheless, the center of this enormous event was the area right around where you are sitting today. During the Tertio-Millennial celebration, a temporary roof and an exterior stairway to the first floor were added to the unfinished building. It was used to house out of

town Indian participants during the approximately six weeks the fair was in progress. It was an incredible endeavor requiring an enormous amount of organization and work. Invitations to attend were sent to lawyers, politicians, government officials, foreign embassies, newspaper editors, throughout the country. Newspaper stories appeared in the country's leading papers. I quote the opening of a story in the Lancaster, Mo. *New Era*: "Santa Fe, the City of the Holy Faith, and the oldest European settlement in the United States, will celebrate its 333d birthday during the present year – its Tertio-Millennial, as they call it. Long before the Pilgrims stepped ashore at Plymouth Rock, or before the intrepid Smith founded the colony at Jamestown, and sixteen years before St. Augustine saw its first house go up Coronado entered the present territory of New Mexico and founded the City of Santa Fe. The year 1550 saw the accomplishment of this important event." The story goes on at length.

There were lots of activities: pageants, parades, oratory, chicken pulls, races, tribal dances, other ceremonials, costume balls, and a reenactment of the battle between the Indians and the forces of Coronado. This building was a pueblo and was attacked, "a beautiful and realistic combat being waged in the presence of the assembled thousands," according to Twitchell. There were also exhibits of all kinds. Horse, mule and burro races were held on the oval layout around the grounds approximately where Federal Place now runs. Twitchell wrote: "The expenditures were far in excess of the receipts, but in every other respect the entertainment was a pronounced success." By way of a footnote – tell Whitman story. The Tertio-Millennial is a story in itself.

In 1884 the building consisted only of a basement and one and a half stories and just remained in that state. This unfinished building became more and more of an eyesore, and in the "Report of the Governor of New Mexico to the Secretary of the Interior for 1884," Governor

Lionel Sheldon did not mince words: "Adjoining the portion occupied by the military on the north is a piece of ground containing about 9 acres, on which stands an unfinished and dilapidated structure, which was intended, when it was commenced, for the State-house or capitol building of the Territory . . . . [In] 1854, Congress appropriated \$50,000 'to complete the public buildings in New Mexico.' This appropriation was expended in rearing the walls of said capitol building about a story and a half above the basement, and in that condition it has stood without a roof for nearly thirty years. The building is small, badly arranged, and poorly constructed, the stone used being unsuitable for any purpose except possibly to put into the foundation of some other building, and the structure bears a striking resemblance to the hulk of a coal-barge."

In 1888 the building was at last nearing completion. On August 31, 1888, F. H. Brigham, Chairman of the Committee on Capitol Grounds, wrote to Governor E. G. Ross: "I propose to make all the necessary drawings and specifications for the shelving for the Capitol library and vaults – also will do the necessary specifications for the improvement of the Capitol building grounds, and to superintend the execution of all work above mentioned for the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars. (\$350.00)." It must have been Brigham who did the Victorian "updating."

Apparently there was some competition for the job of superintending the completion of the building. In addition to Brigham, a Mr. Florence Donaghue, a master stone mason in Santa Fe, was a candidate. In a letter dated June 6, 1887, George W. Lane, Secretary of the Territory of New Mexico, wrote to the Supervising Architect in the U.S. Treasury Department, recommending Brigham for the job. Then Lane wrote to Governor Ross, enclosing a copy of his letter, and saying: "Dear Governor: The enclosed will explain itself. Please show to Brigham

with an injunction to keep quiet on the subject, and tell him, if he gets the appointment that it will be due entirely to my efforts as everything was fixed in Bell's office to give Donaghue the job, although the papers have not yet been made." The more things change, . . . .

Both Brigham and Donaghue ended up being involved. As the April 15, 1889 issue of *The Daily New Mexican* reported the story:

"Santa Fe's handsome United States court house building was transferred by Superintendent Brigham on Saturday to Col. J. P. McGrorty, the government custodian, authorized by the treasury department to accept the work of the contractors, Messrs. Donaghue & Monier. With the exception of receiving a few finishing touches from the painter's brush the building is now completed.

"The structure occupies ground space 60 x 150 feet. The basement is used for the steam heating apparatus and for storage for the different offices. The first floor is divided into ten spacious office rooms, will be occupied by the register and receiver of the United States land office, the surveyor general and the collector of internal revenue. Two of these offices have spacious vaults. There is also a lavatory on this floor conveniently arranged for the accommodation of the officials and their clerical forces. [Probably all men, so one lavatory was enough.]

"On the second floor is the United States courtroom, 50 x 55 feet, with a gallery on the west end of the hall for the use of the public. On this floor also are offices for the United States Attorney, the judge of the United States district court, and two large rooms for the United States grand and petit juries. The building is well lighted and the corridors and rooms are unusually large.

"The heating and ventilating apparatus is somewhat elaborate for a building of this size, and is in the opinion of the superintendent the most complete of anything of the kind in the territory . . . .

"Every office in the building will be carpeted, and the furniture will be of both a substantial and elaborate character.

"Inside shades and outside awnings will be provided for the entire building. Information from Washington is to the effect that contracts for this latter work and for furnishing the building will be let in a few days, and it is now the intention to have the structure in every respect ready for occupancy within six weeks.

"The government appropriation for completing the building amounted to \$52,148, and this has been most judiciously expended under the direction of Col. McGrorty. As is well known, the walls of the basement and first story

have stood uncompleted for years, and represented very rough and unsightly work, but under the supervision of Architect Brigham regularity, order and beauty have replaced the rough work and the building is much more attractive in exterior appearance than it was at first thought possible to make it. As it stands, it could probably not be duplicated for \$125,000. The contractors, Messrs. Donaghue & Monier, have done their work well . . . .

"Messrs. Donaghue & Monier also have the contract for putting \$10,000 worth of improvements on the spacious grounds surrounding the structure, which work they are now pushing to completion."

Both the building and the circular stone wall and iron fence were completed in 1889. The rough stone used for the walls came from the Hyde Park area and the dressed stone used for lintels, window frames and ornamental trim was quarried at Cerrillos.

The 1889 "Report of the Governor to the Secretary of the Interior" is in striking contrast – at least insofar as the comments on the federal building are concerned – to the comments made by Governor Sheldon in 1884. Governor L. Bradford Prince wrote: "During the past year the United States building at Santa Fe has been completed, and is an elegant structure, creditable to the architect and ornamental to the city . . . . The history of this building is peculiar and extends over many years . . . the building remained for a quarter of a century in a condition of increasing dilapidation, until in 1883 the square in which it stands was used for the great 'Tertio-Millennial Celebration,' which took place during the summer of that year. The grounds, which had been excavated for the manufacture of adobes and were the receptacle of all the refuse of the city, were then graded and put in order, and the unfinished building was floored and roofed and used in connection with the celebration. In the series of pageants reproducing the historical events in New Mexico, it represented the Pueblo town of Cibola, and as such was filled with Indian chiefs and warriors, while besieged by the Spaniards under Coronado. After this it again relapsed into 'innocuous desuetude,' until the recent act of Congress caused it to be remodeled and completed and to become the beautiful United States building of today. The grounds have been tastefully

arranged, and an elegant circular stone wall surmounted by an iron fence erected, making it altogether one of the most attractive features of the city."

I assume that the Greek Revival style of the building was part of the original Houghton plans. Beginning about 1820, Greece was the fashion in public buildings in the U.S. Americans yearned for a cultural image, and suitable expression for their new democratic society, and ancient Greece, the birthplace of democracy, seemed to be a good model, and the trend even spread to the west. In his *A History of Architecture*, Spiro Kostof writes: "In the West, Jacksonian democracy embraced the Greek Revival to show that rich and poor could share the same vision for a bright future, using it for its burgeoning public school system, its academies, its courthouses and banks . . . ." By mid-century, architects were moving into an Italian Renaissance or Victorian style of variations. "Only the South, and government buildings in general," writes Kostof, "stayed with Greece – the one in defiant glorification of its way of life, the other perhaps through an obstinate faith in a united nation."

The monument to Kit Carson was erected by his comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic at the south entrance of the building in May 1885 and 5,000 persons are reported to have been present at the unveiling.

The building never was used as a capitol or territorial building. When it was completed, the Court of Private Land Claims held its sessions in the building, and it was also used by the United States Land Office.

What kind of cases were heard in the courtroom in which we now sit? Land fraud was a big recurring theme, but let me quote from Henry Weihofen's history of the federal courts in New Mexico: "The stream of land fraud cases continued unabated. The next most frequently charged crime was, surprisingly, adultery. From 1882 to 1896, the docket of the First Judicial

District listed 344 charges of violations against the public domain and 208 adultery cases. Consistently over a long span of years, adultery cases were the second most numerous in every one of the judicial districts. In the twenty-year period of 1891-1911, the Fifth Judicial District, for example, handled 402 cases. Of these, four were for larceny, nine for embezzlement, one for horse stealing – and 188 for adultery. Perhaps sociologists can explain this high incidence of adultery or at least prosecutions therefor."

The first federal judge after statehood was William H. Pope, who had been chief justice of the territorial court. He died in 1916 at the age of 46. His successor was Colin Neblett, "the last of the colorful type often found in territorial times." He was appointed by Woodrow Wilson in 1917 and served for 31 years. He was apparently a very good judge, who rarely wrote opinions, and who is the subject of many stories. I'll tell only one. (Billie Rose/Martin Gardesky).

Federal funding for the arts is much in the news these days. In this building we see examples of the federal funding that occurred as part of the New Deal. New Deal art programs were active in New Mexico and between 1933 and 1943, at least 178 paintings, 55 murals, 66 graphic works, and 32 sculptures were produced in New Mexico. As you have seen, there are six brilliantly painted murals by William Penhallow Henderson in the lobby, begun in 1933 and finished in 1938. They all depict New Mexico landscape rather than legal themes. They were unsigned, as required, but in 19\_\_ special dispensation was received from the GSA to add the plaques identifying the artist.

In 1970 or '71, this building was firebombed. I haven't seen any contemporary account, but I am told that it was an effort to destroy the records in the draft office. The office had been moved the week before.

Later in the '70s, when Senior Judge Santiago Campos was a state court judge, he cast a covetous eye on this building. As I mentioned, his great grandfather, James Giddings, had been Judge Houghton's court clerk and probate clerk in Santa Fe in the early territorial days, and Judge Campos was sensitive to the historical continuity that would be achieved by having the state district courts sit in this building. Judge Seth had his office as a tenth circuit judge in the building and there were some miscellaneous government offices in it, but it was dirty and not well maintained. Judge Campos made inquiries about the possibility of a transfer of the building from the United States to the State or County, but before anything could happen, he was appointed to the federal bench – this was in 1978 – and he decided he would hold court in Santa Fe. At that time, all the federal district court judges sat in Albuquerque. He caused a satellite court clerk's office to be opened. And now with the appointment of Judge Martha Vasquez, there will be 4 judges and a clerk and federal marshal in Santa Fe. After 150 difficult years, this wonderful old building has become a full-fledged court house.

Saul Cohen  
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