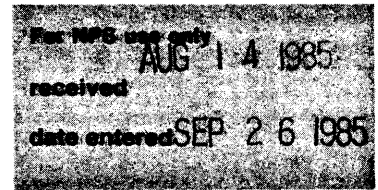


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#567 Johnsen Mortuary, 801 Douglas, ill. 15.

4. Owner: Evelyn Egan and Robert Johnsen, 801 Douglas, Las Vegas, N.M.

6. In Existing Surveys: N.M. St. Register #451.

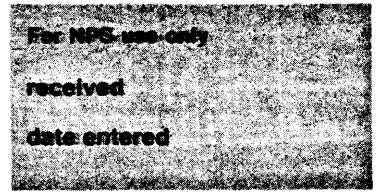
7. Description: Rusticated dark brown, ashlar sandstone foundation with finished watertable; pale yellow to reddish brown textured brick in Flemish Bond; Spanish tile over truncated hipped roof; dentils and arcading in chimney; dentil brick cornice; metal casement windows with brick sills (2nd) or finished purple/brown sandstone lintels (1st); stain glass casements with round heads, pairs divided by Romanesque pilasters, blind arcading above resting on larger pilasters. Side/Chapel entrance: slight projecting gable, columns supporting blind arch and tile gablet, double stain glass doors, paired trees. Front/Apartment entrance: flush gable, blind arch and quoins of finished stone, double doors, wrought iron lamps. Office entrance: stone entablature on corbels, single door, lamps.

This brick building is located in an area of individually significant institutional and residential buildings (discussed with Buildings #512 and 518), one block southwest of the Douglas-Sixth Street District.

8. Significance: The Johnsen Mortuary was erected in 1926 by the leading local firm of M.M. Sundt after a design by his son, Thoralf. The younger Sundt worked at the time as an architect for the Methodist Episcopal Church at their national headquarters in Philadelphia. The building's Mediterranean evocation was thought appropriate for the warmer parts of the U.S. at the time; the hint of an ecclesiastical style--the Romanesque Revival--complemented its function. This overtone is strongest at the chapel entrance and blind arcade of stained glass chapel windows. The addition of a five apartment second floor with its secondary entrance gave the building more substance than the space required by the mortuary alone would have. The interiors, including a 1927 M.P. Mollen pipe organ, light fixtures, and oak floors, stairs and guide rails, are all intact.

J.C. Johnsen was a leading merchant and mortician in Las Vegas from 1905 until his death in 1920. In 1912 he remodeled a building a block east in the Douglas-Sixth Street District (ill. D6 13) to accommodate both his mortuary and hardware/furniture store. His son, Thomas A. Johnsen, who took over the mortuary at his father's death, saw the need for the current, separate building. His daughter, Evelyn Egan, continues to operate the

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(#567 Johnsen Mortuary, continued)

business.

10. Acreage: less than 1. UTM Reference: 13 480360 3938710

Boundary: Lots 23-24 of Block 12 of the Las Vegas Town Company's
Addition.