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Y Federal funds for a "capitol" building in Santa Fe were appropriated by Congress in 1851, 1854, 1860 and 1886. In 1885, the building consisted only of a basement and one and a half stories and remained in this incomplete state for nearly thirty years.

Finally completed in 1889, the courthouse was constructed in Greek Revival architectural style. A circular stone wall and iron fence were also constructed around the federal grounds at this time. In 1929-1930 an addition was built on the north side of the original structure, done in the same architectural style as the earlier building. The walls of the three-storied courthouse are constructed of rough stone taken from the Hyde Park region near Santa Fe. The door lintels, window frames and ornamental trim are of dressed stone quarried at Cerrillos, New Mexico.

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The land on which the courthouse was built was part of the public grounds acquired by the United States from the Mexican government under the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Mexican government public property in the capital of Santa Fe included the Palace of Governors and the area around it as well as a nine-acre tract on the north. It was upon this latter plot that Congress provided \$20,000 for the construction of a capitol building for the territory of New Mexico in "an act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the Government for the year ending the 30th, June, 1851, and for other purposes." The original plans were drawn by Chief Justice Joab Houghton.

A second appropriation of \$50,000 was granted by Congress May 31, 1854 and was spent in rearing the walls about a story and a half above the basement. A third appropriation of \$60,000 was passed on June 24, 1860, but was never received since Miguel Antonio Otero, the New Mexico delegate in Congress, gave up the appropriation in return for the exemption of New Mexico from direct civil war taxes in 1862.

Further attempts were made during the 1860's and 70's to finish construction since it was necessary to rent other space for the functions of the federal courts and territorial legislature. Among the appeals sent to Washington was one explaining the lack of competent workmen to cut the stone for the building, which was "of the hardest nature and very difficult to cut," and also that "all the tools to work with must be brought from the States" as no such equipment was available in New Mexico. (The rough stone for the walls was quarried in the Hyde Park region of Santa Fe, and the dressed stone in Cerrillos, N.M.).

Except for these appeals, the half-built structure, which was said to bear a striking resemblance to "the bulk of a coal barge," was neglected until the summer of 1883 when the grounds around the building were selected as the site of Santa Fe's so-called "tertio-millenial" celebration. This misnamed event was promoted by several prominent citizens including L. Bradford Prince, who later became Governor of the Territory (See continuation sheet)

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No. 8 continued:

(1889-93), and English-born Arthur Boyle, who was an agent for British land investment interests. The grounds were cleared and graded since the area had previously been excavated for adobe making and was also the receptacle for city refuse. The stone walls were given a temporary roof, and an exterior stairway was built to the first floor, which was used to house out-of-town Indian participants during the six weeks the fair was in progress. The Indians were advertised as exhibiting crafts, and engaging in chicken pulls, races, tribal dances and other ceremonials. In one such performance, the courthouse was used as the backdrop for a reenactment of the battle between the Indians and the forces of Conquistador Francisco Vásquez de Coronado. A race track, about one-third of a mile long, was laid out around the grounds, generally following the present Federal Place oval. Horse, mule and burro races were held here, as well as competitive drills by Territorial military cavalry units.

In May of the following year, a simple sandstone monument in honor of Kit Carson was erected by his comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic at the main (south) entrance of the building and unveiled in the presence of some 5,000 persons.

Several more years passed before work started again on the courthouse, but it was finally completed in 1889, together with the circular stone wall and iron fence around the federal grounds Final construction was made possible by an appropriation of \$52,000 which was secured by the New Mexico delegate in Congress, Antonio Joseph. The building was never used for capitol Upon completion of the structure, the Court of Private purposes. Land Claims held its sessions in the building which was also used for the various divisions of the U. S. Land Office. An addition to the north side, in the same architectural style as the original building, was constructed in 1929-30. Presently, the U. S. District Court and various other federal agencies use the building.



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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original portion of the present structure known as the U.S. Courthouse was begun in 1853 and not completed until 36 years later. Plans for the building were prepared under the direction of the Supervising Architect for the Treasury Department, Ammi B. Young.

The 60' x 140' structure was started in 1853 using local stone and was to have a basement for archival storage and two additional floors. By 1864 the structure extended up 20 feet to the first floor lintels but construction was halted because of lack of funds appropriated due to the expense of the Civil War. The building was abandoned and left exposed until 1883 when a temporary roof was placed over the incomplete structure for its use in festivities commemorating the anniversary of Santa Fe. The festivities also included the construction of a race track surrounding the shell of the building.

The territorial legislature provided for a state house in 1883 and a Congressional Act dated February 9, 1887 authorized the completion of the building as accommodations for the U.S. Courts. Finally the stone structure was completed in 1889 with entrances on the north, south and west sides but none on Each entrance was originally a stone portico in the the east. Greek Revival style but the only original portico which remains is the one at the west entrance. Originally the first floor windows were arehed lintels but when construction was resumed these were changed to flat arches and the second floor received the arched heads. Ouoins of dressed stone windows were at each corner.

The central or main entrance was capped with a classic pedimented roof which was hipped at the east and west ends. An exterior stone stairway at each entrance landed at an intermediate level at the portico entrances and from there an inside stairway and a second stairway on the east end landed at the second floor, which was the court room and offices floor.

Stone in the original structure was from the nearby Hyde Park region of Santa Fe and the dressed stone of the quoins, lintels and caps was from Cerrilas, New Mexico.

In 1926 a 50' x 140' rectangular building was erected to the north of the original structure and at that time the south portico was also removed and replaced by a classic revival entrance flanked by engaged Doric pilasters. A connecting 20' x 50' vestibule between the new building and the original structure housed the new circular stairway to the basement and second floor. At the same time the court room was enlarged to its present size and new oak panellinggand furnishings were

added. An east entrance was also added at that time.

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On September 9, 1850, three years prior to the Gadsden Purchase, the territorial government was established by an act which also provided for public buildings. The proposed "state House" building for the New Mexico Territory was begun in 1853 under the direction of the Supervising Architect for the Treasury, Ammi B. Young on land conveyed to the U.S. by Mexico under the Treaty of 1848. The building was not completed until 1889. The first appropriation for the structure was \$20,000 and construction was begun concurrent with the construction of a penitenctjaty/buildingsforcthesterritory/only0300 yards to the north. The penitentiary building was abandoned soon after construction began due to lack of funds also. It was never completed due to the local decision that it was located too close to the city and could present an element of danger. In May 1857 construction was halted a second time for lack of funds. Additional funds were allocated in 1860 but these were never received because of the Civil War debts. Santa Fe was occupied by the Confederates in 1861 but was taken back by the Union the following year.

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In 1883 the Kit Carson monument was erected in front of the incomplete building which had received a temporary roof and a 1/3 mile race tract surrounding the site for the celebration of the Santa Fe anniversary, the "Teritio Millenial".

In 1889 the temporary roof was removed and the structure was completed using the stone from the abandoned penitentiary project and the first court was held in the building that year. The building remained for many years the only structure in Santa Fe which was not of the typical "territorial" adobe style. It continues to be used as a court building and for federal offices. The fence surrounding the federal property follows the line of the 1883 race track. A new structure is now also within the property so defined.

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