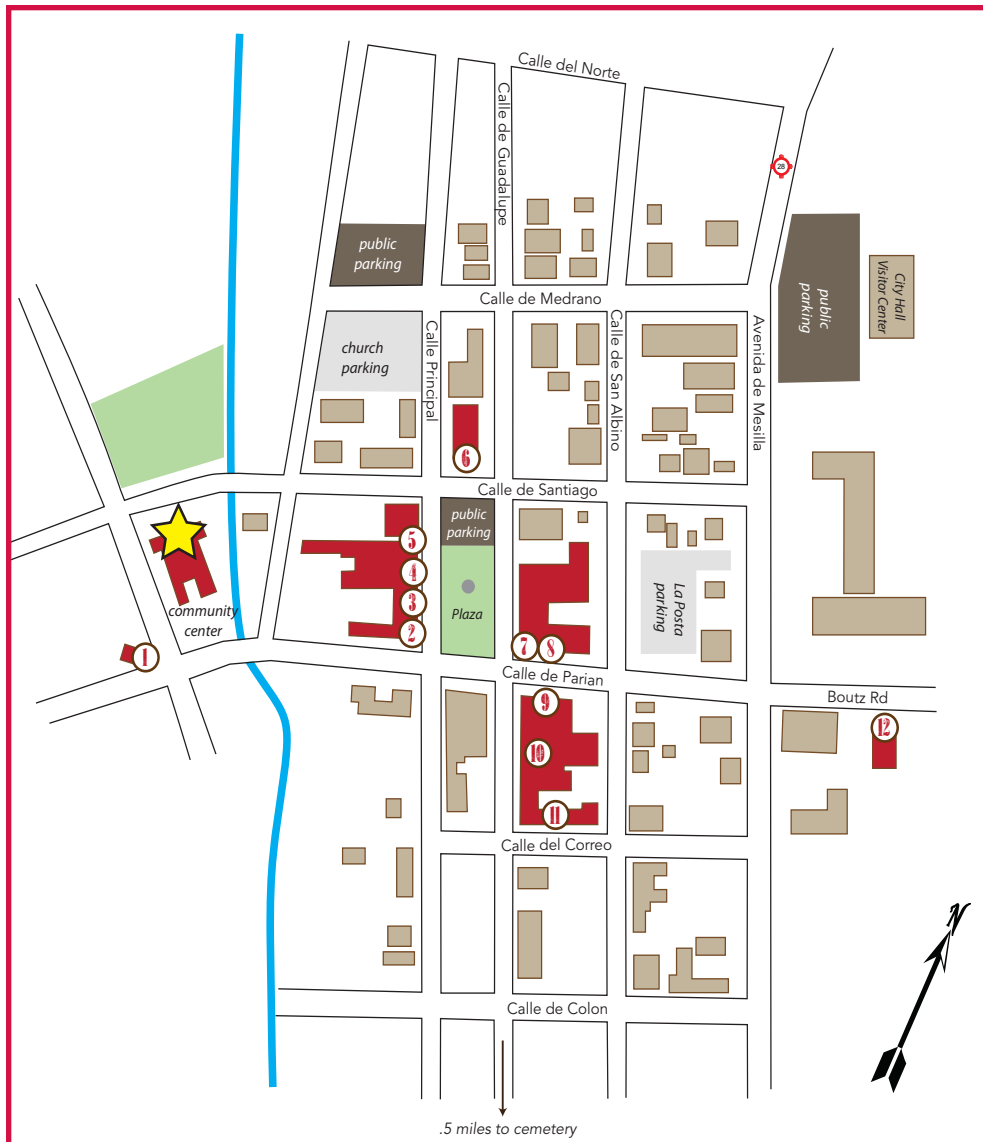


OLD MESILLA WALKING MAP



1. Guerra's Blacksmith Shop

This adobe building was built circa 1830 by Simon Guerra, a blacksmith and local judge.



2. Thunderbird

Built by Augustine Maurin circa 1863, this is thought to be the oldest brick building in New Mexico. A second story was started but never finished; bricked-in partial windows can be seen from the street.

Maurin was murdered in the rear of the building in 1866; the next owner, Pedro Duhalde, was also murdered in the same spot years later. Since 1866 this building has been used as a saloon, residence, town hall, general store, and now a gift shop.

3. Mesilla Book Center

Part of the Reynolds/Griggs property, this building was built between 1850 and 1860 in the same style as the Taylor home. The doorway to the south shares a zaguán (or covered passage) with the building next door and in the back is a barn, carriage house, and living quarters. While inside the bookstore, look up to see the original ceiling beams and stripped branches that connect them. Like the Taylor House, this is also a beautifully preserved piece of Territorial history.



4 & 5. Taylor-Barela-Reynolds-Mesilla State Monument

Donated as a State Monument in 2003 by the Taylor family, these structures were at one time two separate stores: the Barela Store (La Zia on the right) and the Reynolds Store (El Platero on the left). The original storefronts, with living quarters in the back (separated from the shops by a zaguán), were built in the 1850s and combined into one structure in 1903. The building as a whole, seen in the triangular parapet and Neoclassical pediments, is an excellent example of 19th Century Territorial Architecture.

6. San Albino Church

The current building was finished in 1907 but there was an adobe church originally in the spot—the current brick building was built around it. Once the new church was completed, the original was dismantled and carried out through the doorway of the new structure.

The first bell of the church was cast on September 1, 1876; cast in the churchyard, the third bell—the big bell—wasn't finished until December 16, 1887. It was blessed and to this day is still rung to mark mass, baptisms, weddings, deaths, and funerals. Until the San Albino Church was built, all marriages, baptisms, and other services were held in Juarez, Mexico.



Outside there is a walk around the building to the Stations of the Cross; inside to the right is a small museum.

7. Billy the Kid Gift Shop (Former Courthouse)

It's believed that early in Mesilla's history, this building housed the state capital back when the town was the capital of the Arizona and New Mexico Territories. It's also rumored that the men responsible for the Gadsden Purchase met here to work out the details. By 1880 the building was used as a courthouse and jail and it's here that Billy the Kid was tried and sentenced to hang for the murder of Sheriff William Brady.



Inside you'll find eighteen-inch adobe walls and original vigas (wooden beams) and latillas (branches) that line the ceiling.

8. Former Jail

Directly adjacent to the present-day gift shop is the doorway to the jail where the Kid was held. The doorway is sealed off now but on the opposite side of the building is the alley where he would have disembarked from the wagon and entered the jail.

9. La Posta

Constructed in the 1840s the La Posta Compound was used first by Sam and Roy Bean as a freight and passenger service line to Piños Altos. After the Civil War, it became an important stop on the famed Butterfield Stagecoach line. Eventually, throughout the 1870s and 1880s, it was known as the Corn Exchange Hotel—one of the finest hotels in the

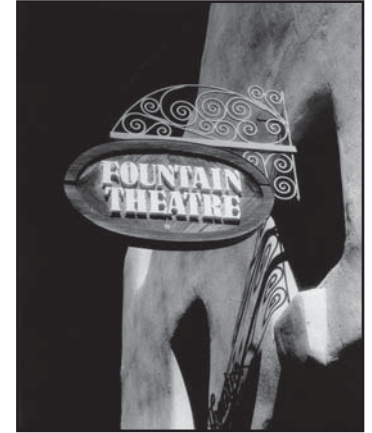


Southwest. As a hotel it also housed a restaurant, but the present-day restaurant was started in 1939 by Katy Griggs Camunez and is still owned and operated by her family.

Billy the Kid stayed here and signed the register on at least one of his trips through the region. Legend has it that Billy rode to San Elizario, Texas, to break his friend Melquiades Segura out of jail. If this is true, it's possible the Corn Exchange Hotel is where he rested before making his way to El Paso.

10. Fountain Theatre

Built in 1905, by Albert Fountain, son of famed Colonel Albert Fountain, this theater is the oldest movie house in New Mexico where both films and vaudeville performances were held and it is still in operation today.



Prior to the theater being built, this site was used by the Confederacy for their headquarters during the Civil War

11. Former Fountain Home

This Territorial Style building which dates back to the 1850s is now private apartments but was once the residence of Colonel Albert Fountain.

12. Gadsden Museum

Originally built in 1860 by Anastacio and Rafarla Barela, this Territorial-style home was bought by Albert Jennings Fountain (the colonel's grandson) and today is a museum dedicated to Colonel Fountain and the local area. In the back of the museum is a replica of Billy the Kid's jail cell which features the actual bars from the jail.

References:

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