

The marriage of Julianita Gutierrez and James “Santiago” Hubbell in 1849 reflected the meeting of Hispano and Anglo-American cultures in New Mexico. Together they built this home and founded a bi-lingual and bi-cultural family that distinguished itself in Southwestern history. Like the family, their home richly embodies the Territorial period in New Mexico and demonstrates the mixing of Hispanic and Anglo lifestyles and cultural values.

ARCHITECTURE

The construction of this flat-roofed house with adobe and *terrone* (sod block) walls and *viga* (log) roof beams reflects a time-honored Spanish building technique that is similar in many ways to that of Pueblo Indians. By contrast, the white Greek Revival trim around the windows and doors and the milled roof beams replacing *vigas* in some rooms reflect ideas and styles imported from the Eastern U.S. This combination of Spanish-Mexican adobe construction with provincial Greek Revival detailing is known as the “Territorial Style” in New Mexico. While the style is linked with the arrival of the U.S. government, it was favored equally by Anglo newcomers and leading Hispanic families. Building in the Territorial Style at this time reflected a desire to be fashionable and to emphasize a family’s elite social status.

The layout of rooms in the house also reveals a blending of traditions. Core samples taken from the roof beams indicate that most were cut between 1855 and 1859. This suggests that the original eight rooms of the house (rooms D-K) were constructed over a few years in the second half

of the 1850s. The resulting pattern of rooms closely resembles the center hallway floor plans that were fashionable in eastern homes. The rear wing (rooms A-C) likely came next and was laid out in linear Hispanic fashion, creating the traditional rear courtyard with the kitchen in a separate wing of the house. The two rooms north of the original core (rooms L and M), were added by 1867, probably following James’ return from the Civil War.

THE SALA ROOM G

Even in large multi-room houses like this one, daily life during the Spanish and Mexican periods typically concentrated in a large, multi-purpose room known as a *sala*. Here entire families might sleep, cook, eat, and entertain guests. This way of living continued in this house as the wide center hallway became known as the *sala* and was used both for circulation and as an all-purpose living room.



The *sala* provides natural circulation to cool the house on summer nights with the double doorways and transom windows at each end of the wide hallway. The tall 11 foot ceilings allow hot air to rise, leaving the lower parts of rooms cooler. The recesses, or *nichos*, seen in the walls throughout the house were originally built as storage shelves in sparsely furnished early Pueblo and Hispanic houses. Even as furniture became more plentiful, *nichos* continued to be used, often as small devotional shrines with candles and images of saints.

THE PARLOR ROOM D

The idea of separating public and private spaces in homes was introduced in the Southwest in the years just before and after the Civil War by the use of Central Hall house plans like this one. In contrast to the multi-purpose *sala*, rooms now began to have specialized functions as bedrooms, kitchens, living or dining rooms. A parlor, such as this room, was furnished with formal furniture intended for entertaining visitors and for large gatherings.

This room was probably elaborately decorated with fine furnishings acquired by the Gutierrez and Hubbell families during trading trips to Spain, Mexico, Missouri and Kansas. The families made the room available to the community for weddings, funerals and other events.

COMMUNITY CULTURAL GALLERY ROOM E

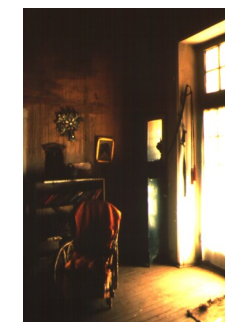
This room will house rotating exhibits and displays.

THE ZAGUAN ROOM F

In Spanish Colonial times, a *zaguan* was a covered outdoor passageway leading from heavy double doors in the exterior wall of a house into an interior courtyard. These passages were wide enough to allow livestock and carts into the courtyard. In the mid-1800s, families began to enclose their *zaguanes* to create entry halls and, in time, the term, *zaguan*, was extended in local Spanish to refer to entry halls.

Although some oral tradition suggests that carriages once passed through this *zaguan*, the design of the house makes this unlikely.

Here and in the *sala*, you can see hand-planed moldings wrapping the door jambs. You can also see

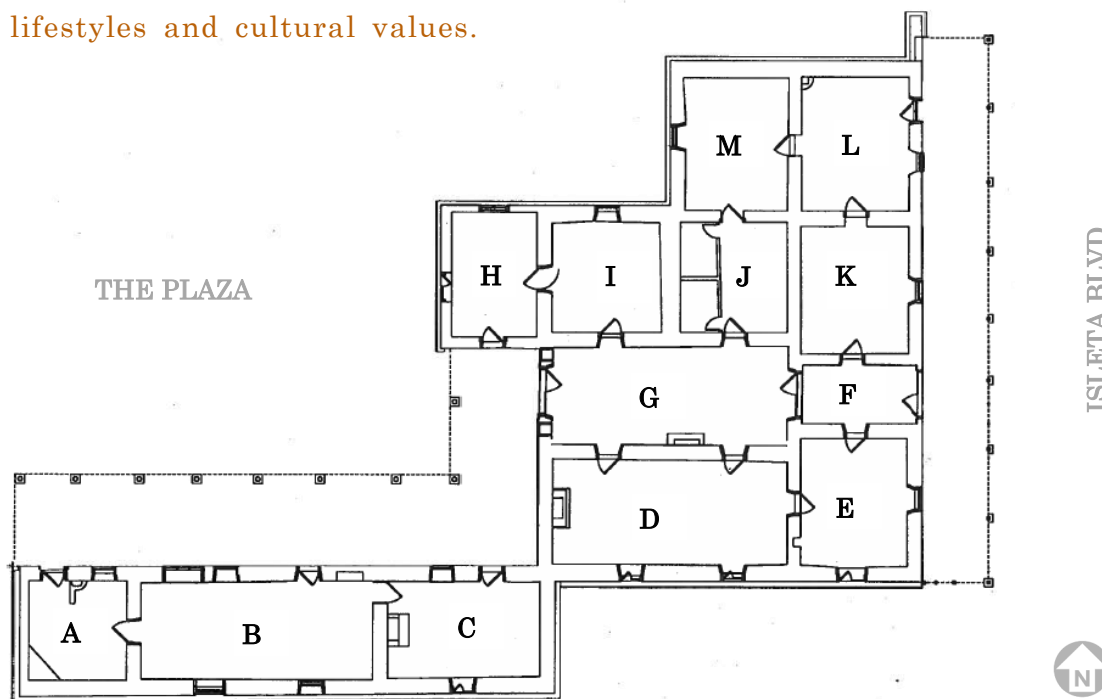


how doorways, like windows, are splayed outwards into the *sala* to promote the movement of air and light into the house.

These details became available around 1850 when sawmills were established in New Mexico and milled lumber became available. Carpenters created more elaborate trim and woodwork including molding capitals and triangular shaped lintels above windows and doors meant to recall details from Greek temples.

HISTORY ROOM

This room is one of three original rooms of the house dating back to 1849 when Juliana Gutierrez and



James L. Hubbell received the property as a gift from Juliana's parents. It served as a bedroom at one time, but now is home to the history of the Baca, Gutierrez and Hubbell families. The history starts with Cristobal Baca and Pedro Duran y Chavez arriving to defend Onate's settlement in San Gabriel in 1600 and concludes with May Hubbell, J. Felipe Hubbell's wife, dying and the mercantile closing in 1929. The informative storyboards lead you through the family lineage and important events of the times.

In the center of this room view the current collection. Do not miss the wedding picture of J. Felipe Hubbell and May Kelly or the oil painting on the wall. It is a replica of the original done in the style of Corregio that hung in the home of Juan Lorenzo Hubbell.

THE MERCANTILE ROOM L

This room served at one time as a bedroom and later as an office for the mercantile. It has now been designed to give a sense of the store (ca. 1868 – 1929) that once occupied rooms extending in a line to the north of here. The footprint of the store is recalled today by the low sitting walls outside to the north.

During the era of the American occupation in 1846 until the coming of the railroad in 1880, trading families like the Hubbells expanded their houses to accommodate a growing retail business. Typically, a store sign and larger display windows flanking a double door distinguished the commercial space from the private space of the home and directed customers into the store. Historic photos show that this mercantile followed this pattern with a low adobe wall, and later a screened porch, helped to separate the home from the store. The mercantile had a Post Office in it and a warehouse that led into the corrals and plaza behind the house.

THE BEDROOM ROOM M

In Spanish times, entire families typically slept in the multi-purpose *sala* on rugs, blankets and animal skins, which could be rolled up against the wall during the daytime for seating. In the mid-19th century, the introduction of rooms with separate uses and names like "bedrooms" was accelerated by the proliferation of furniture meant to serve these separate functions-like the steel and brass beds, night stands and chests of drawers. In 1870, the four Hubbell boys might have shared two beds in a room such as this one.

THE KITCHEN ROOM B

The linear arrangement of this rear wing, and the use of a separate door from each room onto a private space derives from the classic Mediterranean and Spanish Colonial courtyard house type. Meals were cooked here in the kitchen not only for the family, but also for farm hands who could be served through the low, horizontal window.

THE PLAZA

The many storerooms, sheds, corrals and walls that once surrounded the back of the house formed an enclosed plaza. The shade structure and low walls constructed in 2013 trace the location of these structures and offer a good sense of the large plaza space.

Plazas in Spanish houses were typically divided into two spaces by a low wall or fence. Close to the kitchen was a family and women's space. Here you found the well, *hornos* (beehive ovens), a kitchen garden with herbs and vegetables, and chicken coops. In the typical Spanish house, the second, usually larger, section of the courtyard supported farming activities, corrals for a dairy cow and a few work horses, and storage for saddles, tack and farm tools. In homes such as this with a mercantile, the second space was used as a warehousing extension at the rear of the store for livestock, carts and other large and bulky items.

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Managed by:
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A HISTORICAL GUIDE TO THE GUTIERREZ- HUBBELL HOUSE