



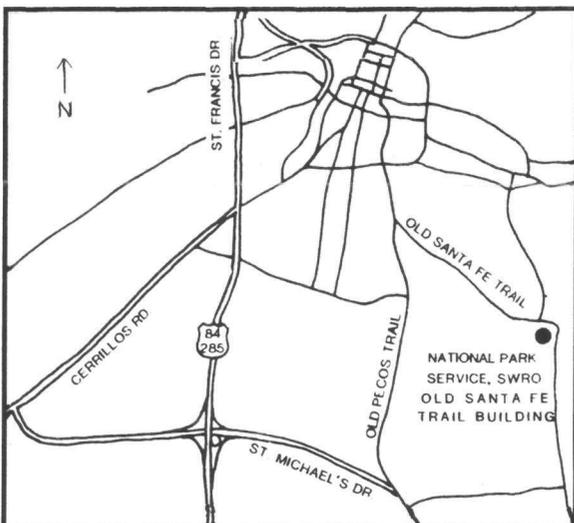
Southwest Regional Office Building

The National Park Service Southwest Regional Office Building is the largest known adobe office structure and one of the largest secular adobe buildings in the United States. The building is a masterpiece of Spanish-Pueblo Revival architecture, ranking among the best examples in the Southwest. For more than 50 years the building has functioned for the purpose it was designed. But the unique architecture forms only one stirring chapter in the history of the building. The story of the Regional Office demonstrates that historic buildings represent more than an assemblage of wood and earth, and that structures are molded in the framework of the people who live and work inside them. The Southwest Regional Office Building is no exception.

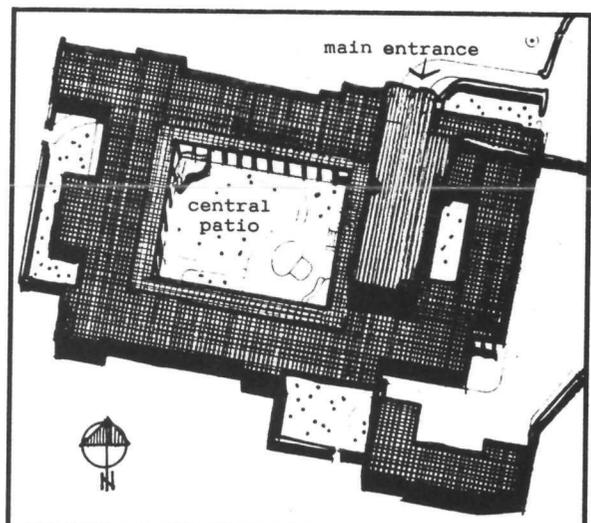
Rendering of the building drawn by Milton Swatek in 1938

The National Park Service Moves To Santa Fe

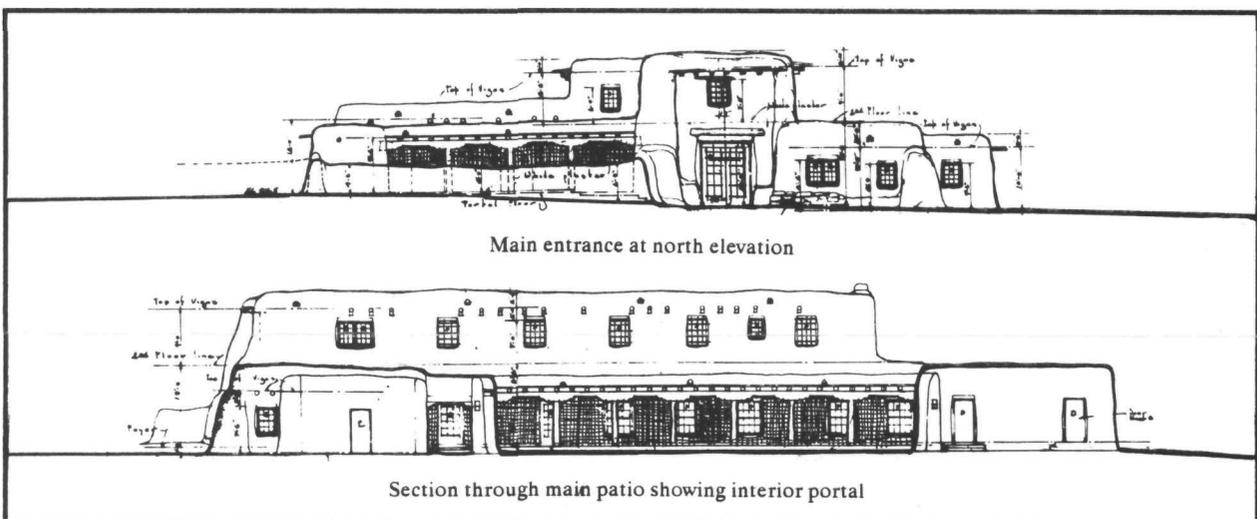
In the early 1930s the National Park Service began to search for a centralized location from which to manage its burgeoning number of Southwest parks and monuments, and Director Horace Albright championed the idea of a Santa Fe location. The regional office in Oklahoma City was isolated from the majority of parks centered in New Mexico and Arizona. Albright believed that Santa Fe, with its central geographic location, mild climate, and distinctive architectural flavor and charm possessed the right ingredients for a headquarters site. To sweeten the offer, the Santa Fe Laboratory of Anthropology offered to donate 8.5 acres of land if the Service would build in Santa Fe. Working in conjunction with National Park Director Arno B. Cammerer and Chief Planner Conrad L. Wirth, Acting Regional Director Herbert Maier announced in autumn of 1937 plans to construct a new regional headquarters building in Santa Fe.



Location Map - Santa Fe, New Mexico



Building configuration



Cecil Doty's construction drawings show the sculptural quality, irregular massing, and window relationships that are all characteristic of Spanish-Pueblo revival architecture.

Spanish-Pueblo Revival Architecture

One of Maier's first tasks was to select an architectural style. Cecil J. Doty, Regional Architect, became absorbed in the natural elements of the Spanish-Pueblo architecture enjoying a revival in the Southwest. Spanish-Pueblo tapped readily available materials like stone and adobe for walls, adobe mud for mortar, and rough-cut timber for roof framing. The style represented a melding of early Pueblo Indian and Spanish designs, an approach that meshed perfectly with the "rustic architecture" introduced in the

national parks in the 1930s. This form featured simple structures with rectangular shapes and few door and window openings. Doty adopted other native features such as the traditional enclosed open courtyard or patio, massive adobe mud-plastered walls, and hand-hewn beams, vigas, and corbels.

Working closely with Doty were Regional Landscape Architects Harvey Cornell and John Kell. Doty blended their concepts of interior and exterior spaces into his design.

