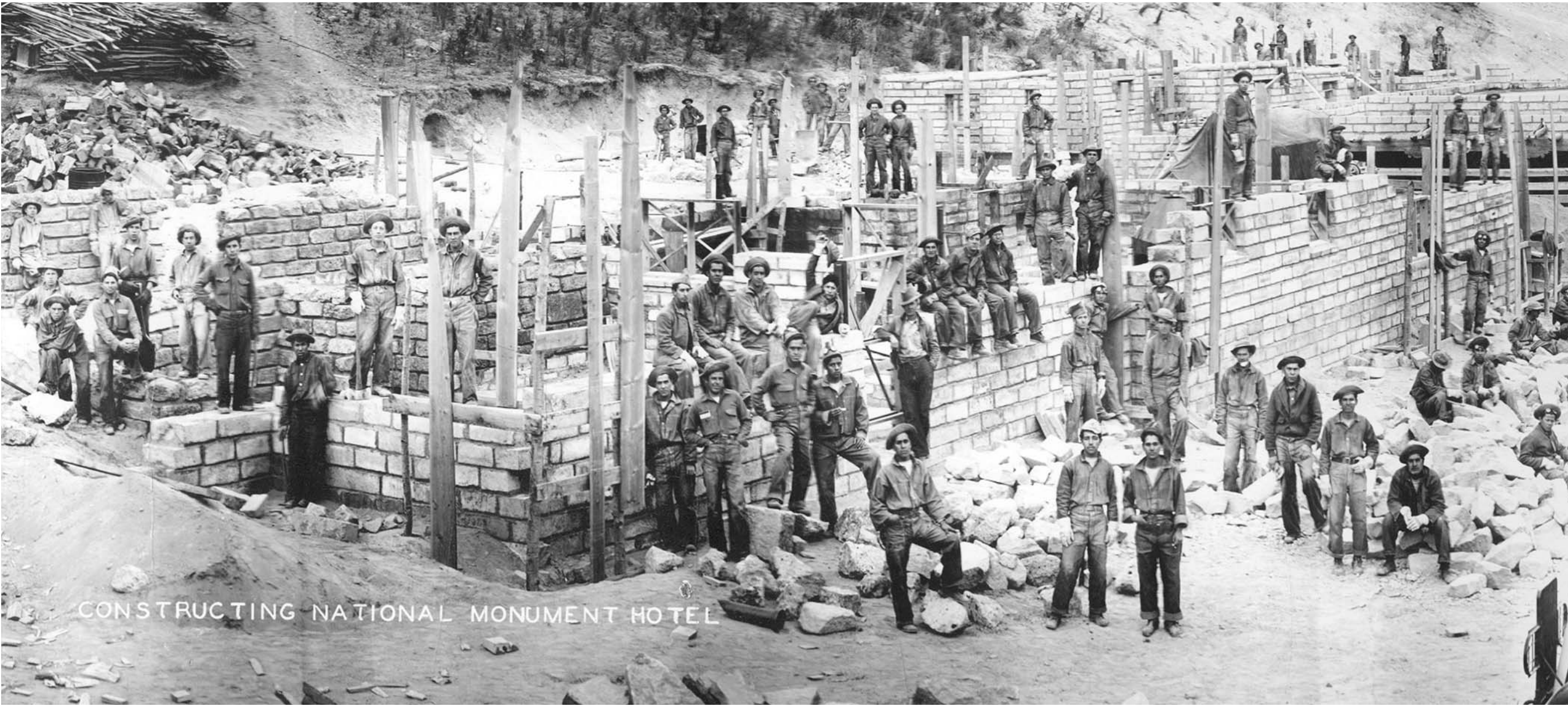


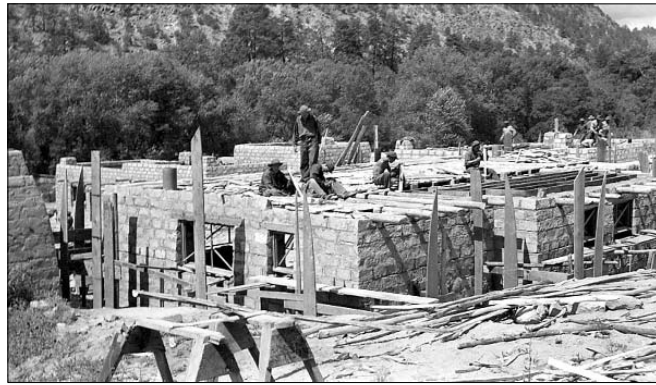


## SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF THE BANDELIER CCC HISTORIC DISTRICT



CONSTRUCTING NATIONAL MONUMENT HOTEL

**B**andelier was established as a National Monument in 1916, but until the mid- 30's the only visitor facility in Frijoles Canyon was a lodge built in 1909 by Judge A. J. Abbott. Even by 1925 when George and Evelyn Frey acquired the lease to run the lodge, the only way for visitors to access the canyon bottom and the lodge was on foot. Much of the Freys' food came from their garden and livestock, but everything else - visitors, archeologists, supplies, and the Freys themselves whenever they had to get groceries or mail - had to come down this trail.



Construction of CCC buildings

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), funding and workers became available to do this work.

The CCC was a Depression-era program designed to produce public works while providing much-needed jobs and work experience for men between the ages of 17 and 26. With the desperate nationwide lack of employment, young men welcomed the opportunity to get room, board, and training. The pay was \$1 a day, and at the end of each month they received \$5 of that, while the rest was sent home to their families. It is hard today to imagine what a difference that money made to families in rural New Mexico, as well as all over the country.

In 1932, when Bandelier was transferred from the United States Forest Service to the National Park Service, Frank "Boss" Pinkley was the Superintendent of the Southwestern National Monuments. He knew that to make it possible for more people to visit Bandelier, improved facilities and better access into the canyon were necessary. When the Emergency Conservation Work Act in 1933 created the



Frank "Boss" Pinkley



Construction of the entrance road into Frijoles Canyon, 1933

The National Park Service is dedicated to preserving unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The agency is a pioneer in the drive to protect America's open space, and a world leader in the natural and cultural resource preservation community.



CCC enrollees cutting rocks.



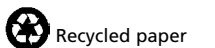
Frijoles Canyon Lodge

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Frijoles Canyon Lodge

Superintendent. About a quarter of a mile up the road is a service road (open to employees only). It leads to the stables, which were originally built to house horses for the guests to rent, but now are home for park horses and mules used for rescues and work on the backcountry trails.

**14** Return to the road bridge and end your tour at the Visitor Center where you started. You have had the chance to get acquainted with

the largest group of buildings and furnishings built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in any National Park or Monument in the United States. The hard work of the architects, enrollees, and supervisors provided Bandelier with a beautiful and distinctive set of facilities that remind us of those times and people. The structures are not only enjoyable and in harmony with the local landscape and culture, but are also a unique part of our national heritage. In addition, as many former enrollees say, they came away with work habits and skills that were valuable to them throughout the rest of their lives.

amenities, it is now the restroom for the picnic area. If you climb the hill and look inside, notice the decorative grills on the windows.

**13** You will be making use of one more CCC project as you leave the park: the road into the canyon. The road is particularly significant because it was the CCC's first project here, and it was a real engineering and construction challenge. Until that time the only way to enter the canyon was a steep, switchback walking trail, now known as the Frey Trail, about a half mile up the canyon. To provide the opportunity for more visitors to use the park, a road was a real necessity. Within about a month after the CCC camp was established, the enrollees had built a 12-foot-wide truck trail, which they widened and completed later. It was carefully planned to provide the maximum view of the canyon upon entry, while providing the least possible visual intrusion from the canyon bottom, and the original route and roadbed are still in use. As you drive out of the park, you may notice the original stone gutters, which are carefully maintained. You may also notice several stone houses back from the left side of the road; the CCC built these as residences for park staff and the



Construction of Frijoles Canyon Lodge

Older, skilled workers, known as LEM's (Local Experienced Men), taught the enrollees marketable skills including carpentry, tinwork, furniture making, carving, and masonry.

As soon as a CCC camp was approved for Bandelier, "Boss" Pinkley began putting together plans for the road into the canyon and facilities for visitors. It was considered very important for park structures to harmonize with the environment and local culture, so a regionally-popular style often called Pueblo Revival was chosen. The Park Service architect, Lyle Bennett, had worked on several other Park Service and CCC buildings in the Southwest and was well schooled in this style.

The first project, the road, was opened as a truck trail in 1933. Over the next 8 years the enrollees built 31 stone buildings for visitor facilities, Park Service residences, offices, the fire tower and entrance station, along with the hand-carved wood furniture and pierced-tin light fixtures to furnish them. Their work also included building trails, helping archeologists stabilize the Ancestral



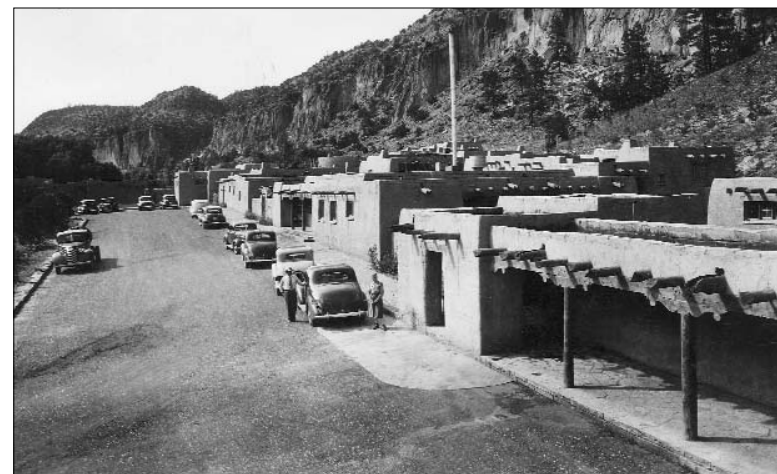
CCC enrollees at work, Bandelier National Monument 1933

Pueblo sites, and widening and completing the road. In late 1941, the work was essentially complete, and the camp was moved out of Frijoles Canyon. In December of that year, the United States entered World War II, and most CCC enrollees all over the country enlisted in the Armed Services, thus ending the CCC era.



CCC tin light fixture

As you tour these buildings, remember they were built in a time of national economic emergency, by young men learning skills under the supervision of local experienced craftsmen. There was little funding for supplies, necessitating the use of local materials, but an almost unlimited supply of labor, resulting in beautiful, painstaking handwork that would be almost impossible to duplicate today. They are a true tribute to the CCC program and its participants.



Frijoles Canyon Lodge 1940s



CCC hand-carved bench

**NOTE ON HANDICAPPED ACCESS:** *This trail may be done on foot or in a wheelchair. You may use your own wheelchair, or one is available for loan at the Visitor Center. There is no charge for its use, but please check with a ranger first.*

**1** Begin your walking tour at the flag pole, facing the front entrance of the Visitor Center. To your left is a cairn erected in 1987, designating 32 structures in Frijoles Canyon as the Bandelier CCC Historic District and a National Historic Landmark. The buildings, built in the Pueblo Revival Style to fit with the local culture and surroundings, comprise the largest assemblage of CCC buildings in the National Park System. The wayside exhibit to your right gives a good introduction to that program.



Original CCC Enrollees Dedicate Wayside Exhibit, Fall 2002

Looking at the Visitor Center, you can see the external structural elements that are part of all the Pueblo Revival style buildings here:

**Vigas (VEE-gahs)** - beams that support the roof. You will see them inside, and jutting out from the roof about every 4 feet. Each hand-peeled Ponderosa log extends the full width of the structure.

**Canales (kah-NAH-lace)** - roof drain spouts. Each consists of a log cut to make a drain and then lined with metal, often copper.

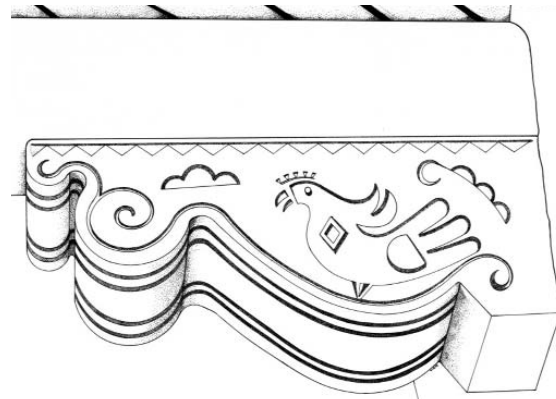
**Lintels** - large squared-off wooden beams over the doorways and windows.

**Latillas (luh-TEE-yuhs)** - whole or split saplings placed across the vigas to help support the roof.

**Bancos (BAHN-kohz)** - bench-style built-in seats, usually made of masonry. They are often found on either side of fireplaces.

**Parapets** - raised walls surrounding a flat roof. Canales (drains) are cut through them.

**Corbels** - supporting blocks at each end of the vigas, often decoratively shaped or carved.

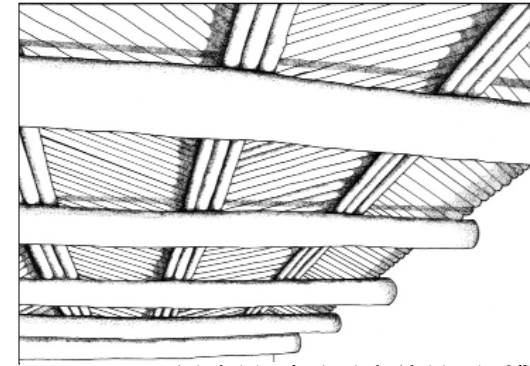


Artist depiction of CCC decorative corbels located in the Visitor Center

**Walls** - here, the thick masonry walls are made of blocks of tuff (volcanic ash.). They were originally covered in earthen, lime, or cement plaster. There is ongoing research to find the blend of materials to reconstruct this covering.

**Portal (pour-TAHL)** - a covered porch space along some buildings.

**2** Enter the Visitor Center. Once well inside the door, take a moment to look up and around and enjoy the ambiance of the building. This room contains a variety of extremely decorative elements. Notice the original Spanish Colonial pierced-tin light fixtures and the woodworking around the walls, including all of the interior corbels. Also, look at the latillas, above the vigas. The latillas in this room are arranged in a diagonal or herringbone pattern, while others in the complex are usually laid perpendicular to



Artist depiction of savinas in the Administration Office

front room of this building is usually kept dark, to conserve energy, but if you can see through a space in the window curtains, look at the ceiling. It is the most elaborate in the complex, with "savinas," sets of three aspen poles below the latillas, running perpendicular to the vigas. As you face the building, the Coffee Shop and kitchen would have been to your right, the dining room in front of you. In the dining room Mrs. Frey served meals for large numbers of lodge guests and other visitors. Her waitresses were often young girls from surrounding pueblos; the guests enjoyed seeing them in their traditional clothing, and would often tip better because of it!

**11** Turn around to look at the parking lot. The facilities in the canyon were built to accommodate 30,000 visitors a year; the average is now 300,000. There are many times when the parking lot fills and cars must wait for a space. Look along the sidewalk to your left to the covered portion of the walk. This was a small gas station. The buildings across the narrow service road were, and still are, for equipment and maintenance.

**12** Return to the front of the Visitor Center. If you would like to see one more building, continue past the Visitor Center entrance and the restrooms, and follow the signs to the Cottonwood Picnic Area. This was originally



Frijoles Canyon Dining Room



Frijoles Lodge visitors

built to be the park campground. In 1963, the campground was moved to the mesa top near the park entrance. Look for a building on the hill to your left. Completed in 1934, this campground comfort station was the first permanent building constructed by the CCC in Bandelier. Since people often camped for weeks at a time, the comfort station included showers and laundry facilities. Minus those



CCC tin light fixture, Visitor Center

5 Walk out the back entrance of the portal to the beginning of the Main Loop Trail, and turn to face the Visitor Center. When this structure was built the center portion (what is now the Visitor Center lobby) was an open patio. It was enclosed in 1938. The road to the campground was on the

stream side of the Visitor Center. On the stream bank on your right, both of the old concrete bridge abutments are still present. To the left of the Visitor Center you can see some of the cabins that were built for overnight accommodations at the Lodge. Please do not go up to the cabins, as they are in use as quarters and offices.

6 Return to the Visitor Center, go out the front door, and follow the sidewalk to your left. Once you leave the sandstone surface of the porch area, the stone sidewalk is CCC work. Go up the stairs or ramp, (which are recent additions) into the patio by the Gift Shop door. Ahead and to your left are the cabins built for



Building of Frijoles Canyon Lodge.

the Frijoles Canyon Lodge. This facility replaced the old lodge that Judge Abbott had built near Tyuonyi, the large archeological site up the canyon from here. By the time the new lodge was built, Mrs. Frey had been the park concessionaire for almost 15 years. She was reluctant to move from the small, intimate old lodge where she could house 20 guests and make what she called "beautiful meals" from her garden, orchard, and chicken coops, but realized that economically it would be a good move. The new, larger lodge could accommodate about 40 guests, but the garden and chicken coops were no longer available. As Mrs. Frey often said, "If I wanted an onion, I had to go to Santa Fe to buy it." Nowadays, Santa Fe is only about an hour away on paved roads. It is hard to remember that for that onion, Mrs. Frey had to make her way on dirt roads which turned to mud in rain or snow, and crossed arroyos that flooded with every thunderstorm. It could take a whole day or more, and of course people trying to visit the park had to deal with the same things.



CCC cabins Frijoles Canyon Lodge 1940. Now used as staff quarters.



CCC Lodge and "Kiva"

Almost straight ahead of you is a round building, known as the "Kiva." Since the cabins were arranged as if they were pueblo homes around a plaza, this structure was built to resemble the ceremonial chamber often found in pueblo plazas. It contained restrooms and was used for storage of linens and the boiler for this complex. During World War II when Los Alamos was a secret project, scientists and their families were

often housed here. There were no kitchens in the cabins so hotplates were put in the "Kiva" especially to warm milk for babies. All these cabins are now offices or quarters for Park employees; please remain in the patio.

Each cabin unit has a corner fireplace, and was originally furnished completely with CCC hand-made furniture. Most of the furniture is presently in protective storage. The wall material in all the CCC buildings is tuff blocks quarried from the mesa top. The quarry area is now used as the amphitheater in Juniper Campground, where Ranger programs are held on summer evenings. Here in the cabin area is a good place to notice that the walls angle in from bottom to top, which is called "battered."



CCC tin light fixtures

Throughout this walk, notice the delicate tin-work in the light fixtures. This type of work, with pierced and painted decoration, first flowered in northern New Mexico in the 1850's when American merchants began bringing in quantities of canned goods for the army. This provided the opportunity for craftspeople to re-use the can metal which had been rare in the territory before the military arrived. Where pieces are protected from the weather you can see the bright colors used. There is an ongoing program to preserve these artworks.



Interior of cabin

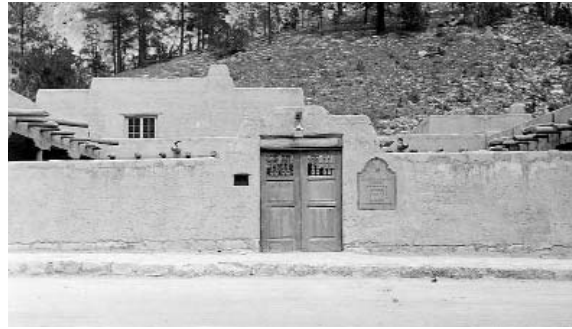
**7** Go to your right into the Gift Shop. This room was the lobby of the lodge and the current snack bar was the gift shop. Again notice the tinwork fixtures, the corner fireplace, banco, and vigas.



Lobby of the lodge, which is currently the Gift Shop.

**8** Go back out of the Gift Shop door and down the ramp to the sidewalk alongside the parking area, then down the sidewalk to your left (away from the Visitor Center) to the Snack Bar patio. Notice the decorative wood grill on the Gift Shop window. Such grills are part of the distinctive appearance of New Mexico architecture; more may be seen in the restrooms in the picnic area and the doors of the building now used for administrative offices.

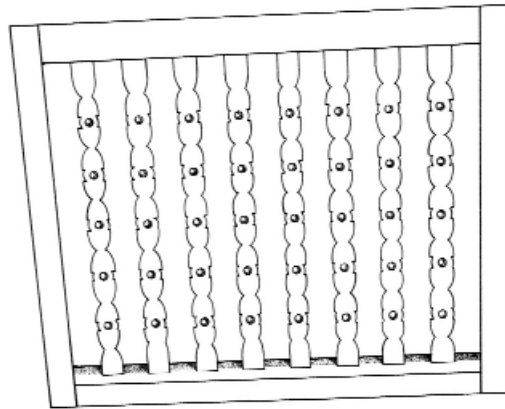
**9** Once in the Snack Bar patio, notice the large grapevine. Mrs. Frey always said that she started it with a cutting from a wild canyon grape plant she found along the Rio Grande near the mouth of Frijoles Creek. The windows above it are part of the residence built for Mrs. Frey, which she occupied until her death in 1988; it is now the Superintendent's office and conference room. The windows across the patio from the Snack Bar door look out of what was the lodge dining room. The patio itself is now filled with picnic tables, but when there were overnight guests staying at the Lodge, it was used for socializing. On some evenings, Pueblo people on the staff would present



Frijoles Canyon Lodge interior

traditional dances for the guests. Surrounding the patio is another good example of a portal, just as welcome on a hot day now as it was in the 1940's. On your right notice the wooden gates leading into the patio from the parking lot. The walls on either side of them were originally more that a foot taller, which must have made this space quiet and private, but probably also made it harder for visitors to find their way in.

**10** Continue out the doorway in the far corner of the patio (rather than through the gates). The building directly on your left, now labeled "Administrative Offices," formerly contained the lodge dining room and kitchen, a coffee shop, and quarters for employees. The



Gift Shop decorative wood grill



Woman painting pottery, Pablita Velarde 1933  
Bandelier Permanent Collection



Pablita Velarde, 2003

the vigas. The fancy diagonal pattern is usually reserved for public use buildings rather than offices or quarters. The flooring is chunks of native volcanic rock.

Building a fireplace in a corner is a tradition widespread in New Mexico, and here bancos were built extending from its sides. There is another corner fireplace in the auditorium, as well as more tin light fixtures.

**3** Walk through the museum. The first section is part of the original building, with the same stone floors as the lobby. The section with the brick floors was added in the 1970s. The original museum exhibits consisted of glass cases containing items related to the past and present Pueblo culture. As

a part of the Works Progress Administration Arts Program (WPA), the late Helmuth Naumer Sr. used pastels to depict local scenes and pueblos. Young Pablita Velarde of Santa Clara Pueblo was hired to paint scenes of traditional Pueblo culture as illustrations for the museum cases. She went on to become one of the best-known Pueblo artists.

**4** Proceed out the back door onto the portal. Here you will see short bancos, wooden benches, tin light fixtures, and a double gate, all handcrafted by the CCC men. Park Service architects did the design plans for the furniture and tinwork in the Spanish Colonial style. This portal and adjacent open space were then and are now sometimes used for demonstrations of Pueblo Indian arts and crafts.

As Pablita later said about her work, "This period of my life at Bandelier, I figure, I've learned more about my own people ... than I would have ... and I appreciate what the old ones have tried to pass on ... I want the earth to remember me through my work."



Deer, Buffalo, and Antelope Dance, Pablita Velarde,  
Permanent Collection Bandelier, 1940