



**Your on the
Street Reporter**



Uyless Black

**America's Cities
Santa Fe: Bishop's Lodge**

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Hello from Your on the Street Reporter. On several occasions since my retirement from computer networking, I have visited Bishop's Lodge resort, located three miles north of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Recently, I paid another call on this place. If you are in the area, take a couple hours to stroll around its grounds, perhaps dine in the restaurant. I recommend staying a night or two at the Lodge.¹

The resort owes its name to Archbishop Jean Baptiste Lamy. As you can see, the title of Bishop's Lodge is not completely accurate, as it is Archbishop's Lodge. Maybe the folks who named the place used the more-modest moniker to avoid appearing too elitist.

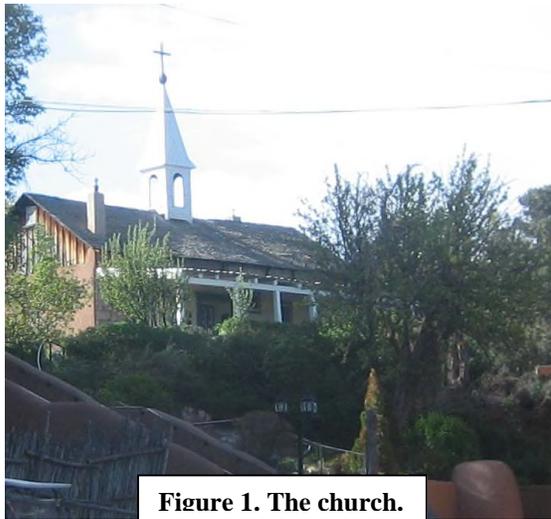


Figure 1. The church.

At this resort you will find a small church built by Lamy during the 1860s, and shown in Figure 1. After impressive efforts to strengthen the Catholic Church's presence in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and parts of Utah, the Archbishop believed he needed a place of retreat to rest and contemplate. In the 1860s, for \$80, he purchased the land on which the Lodge and church are located. This amount garnered around 153 acres in the Tesuque Canyon. I say "around" because the deed (recorded in 1874) was a bit vague. It was based on geographical landmarks, not surveying instruments.

Today, the Tesuque Canyon real estate is some of the most expensive land in-and-around Santa Fe. Take a look at Figure 2. On the distant hills, you can see adobe-style homes nestled among the surrounding trees and bushes. One of those houses with say, a couple acres of land, sells for a price several hundred-fold more than the \$80 of Lamy's day.

Too bad for Lamy's off-spring that the Archbishop did not buy a few acres around his retreat for personal investment. But then, Lamy had no off-spring as he was forbidden to take-on the Catholic Church's forbidden fruit. Jean compensated by imbibing in permitted fruit. He was an accomplished horticulturist and "...his garden and orchard around Santa Fe was a showcase" of apricots, apples, peaches, and pears.²

¹ Dr. Myra Ellen Jenkins and James, R. Thrope, III, *From Retreat to Resort: A History of Bishop's Lodge*, Bishop's Lodge, Santa Fe, New Mexico (www.bishopslodge.com). Source of the statistics in this report. <http://www.historicsantafe.org/Bulletins/1987ArchbishopLamyChapel.pdf>. Photo on cover, courtesy of Google. Key-in Bishop's Lodge in Google's search window.

² Jenkins and Thrope III, p. 10.



Figure 2. Hills around the Lodge.

As suggested by Figure 2, the Lodge is indeed a retreat. It is quiet and peaceful. It has theappings of a resort: a spa, swimming pool, tennis courts, riding stables, and large sleeping rooms with fine views and kiva-style fireplaces.

Figure 3 on the next page shows other scenes from this resort:

- Top left photo: Main building (note the church in the left part of the picture).
- Top right photo: One of the buildings housing sleeping rooms.
- Bottom left photo: Part of the lobby (happy hour customers are entertained with live music in this room).
- Bottom right photo: Two fixtures from the Spanish past.

The square wheels on the small wagon reveal why the Spanish lost this part of the country to the Americans. The gringos used round wheels on their wagons, giving them a distinct advantage over the Spanish when hauling firearms to a battle. It was too late before the Spanish discovered their design flaw, as the Americans from the North had begun to take over the territory. Thus, the Spanish ended-up on the short end of the stick, leading to the famous saying, “I’ve an axle to grind.”

Reporterette informs me the saying is “axe” not “axle,” and the antique is not a wagon, but a chest. I prefer my interpretation. In any event, I hope you visit Bishop’s Lodge. It is an enchanting part of Santa Fe.



Figure 3. Other scenes from Bishop's Lodge.