

# New Mexico Territory at the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893

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New Mexico became one of the early participants at the upcoming World's Columbian Exposition by passing a nine-section Territorial Legislative act in February of 1891. \$25,000 was appropriated to cover all expenses. The New Mexico U.S. Commissioners were T.C. Gutierrez of Albuquerque and R.M. White of Hermosa; alternate C.B. Eddy of Eddy was active as well. The Lady Commissioners were Cora L. Bartlett, Santa Fe, and Franc L. Albright, Albuquerque. The World's Columbian Exposition Managers of New Mexico consisted of J.H. Sloan, Santa Fe; Miguel Salazar, Las Vegas; W.H.H. Llewellyn, Las Cruces; and E.V. Chavez, Socorro. In addition, T.B. Mills of Las Vegas was Executive Commissioner in charge of the Territorial Building and exhibits in Chicago; his assistant was W.H. Hulvey.

Organization took some time however. Planning was far from over as evidenced by the agenda of items discussed at the Board's meeting in Albuquerque on April 6, 1892. The Board requested all state counties to participate; response varied from no activity to enthusiastic participation. Active counties included Colfax, San Juan, Bernalillo, Grant, Sierra, San Miguel and Santa Fe. New Mexico's exhibits in the mines and mining department were its best, winning 11 awards in all. The Tiffany exhibit of turquoise jewelry featured stones from the Las Cerrillos, New Mexico mine. Other exhibit areas were in the Horticulture Department (apples, canned fruit and wines); Education Department (e.g. University of New Mexico and the Albuquerque Indian School); Agriculture Department (e.g. 200 varieties of wheat); Department of Charities and Correction; and the Woman's Building (e.g. Indian artifacts, silk and a gold and silver filigree table which is now in the Governor's Palace Museum in Santa Fe). The women of the territory were very active in organizing the exhibits; they included the Black women, their handiwork, and organizations in New Mexico.

The idea of a Joint Territorial Building at Chicago was initiated by Cora Bartlett and Franc Albright, Commissioners. They met in Chicago on September 7, 1891, with representatives from Oklahoma and Arizona Territories. The idea was accepted and Cora Bartlett was made President of the Joint Territorial Alliance. Seymour Davis of Topeka, Kansas, was chosen as chief architect and Henry Bennett of Chicago as the building contractor. The Joint Territorial Building cost \$7500, each territory contributing a third; landscaping and furnishing costs were also shared equally. T.B. Mills (\$150 per month salary) had the task of overseeing the transport of exhibits (about 15,000 items) from Albuquerque to Chicago on the Santa Fe Railroad and paying bills. Originally, vendors providing service were paid by the Territory or selected New Mexico banks. This generated many complaints for late payment until Mills paid all bills and submitted receipts later to the Capitol for reimbursement. New Mexico Day was September 16, 1893; Governor William T. Thornton gave the main address. Altogether ten different Territorial pamphlets were printed and handed out with a total distribution of 75,000 copies.



New Mexico, Arizona, and Oklahoma Joint Territorial Building

In spite of disappointments such as the lack of participation by some counties, resignation of Cora Bartlett

over financial control conflicts, contradictory resolutions generated by the Board, the Territory made an excellent show at the World's Columbian Exposition. Fair visitors learned about the Southwest and the availability of productive land and opportunity.

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