

# Vidal Santillanes

## 1607 Granite Avenue NW

The Santillanes home is a wonderful example of a typical New Mexican adobe style house, with large vigas framing the ceilings, carved wood throughout, stone fireplaces and cabinets colored in bright colors. It is a warm personal place, filled with family photos and collections of New Mexico historic tin works and ceramics. This house started out as one of the typical two bedroom houses built by Leon Watson in 1941. Two additions, one on the south front and one on the west side have transformed the house into a large four-bedroom home. The additions also have skylights placed between the vigas to introduce natural light into various areas of the house.



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Millie Santillanes b. 1932, d. 2007

Millie Santillanes was a major force for Albuquerque and Spanish American culture. She is credited as getting Tiguex Park and the Museum of Art and History located near Old Town. Under mayor Martin Chávez she served as two terms as City Clerk and Director of Cultural Affairs. She was also a founder of the New Mexican Hispanic Culture Preservation League and numerous other achievements. The house at 1607 Granite retains many aspects of Millie and her life.



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## Three saints in the patio

Three large religious sculptures inhabit the patio of the house. San Isidro, St. Michael Archangel and St. Francis Xavier. For many years Vidal Santillanes was a part of the group at Old Town's San Felipe de Neri Catholic Church that staged religious parades on the church Founder's Day. Although the church still celebrates the event every year with a parade, they no longer use these figures. The figure of St. Michael Archangel figure was created by artist Richard Rivera of Las Vegas, NM in sheet metal. San Isidro is a wood carving and St Francis Xavier is made out of fiberglass.

