Historic Preservation Division
Preservation New Mexico
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Activities Report 2015

On the Cover: Dave Campbell Talks Preservation Tax Credits in New HPD Video

3 HPD’s Mission & the Budget at a Glance

4 SHPO Message — Preservation and Education

5 HPD’s Three Interns

6 Historic Preservation Grants: Cleaning up Sandia Cave

9 Grants for Underrepresented Communities

10 State and National Register 2015

12 HPD Debuts its Video on Proposed Changes to the Preservation Tax Credit

15 Albuquerque Rail Yard Archaeology Happens Through a Permit

16 SiteWatch

17 Digital Database—NMCRIS Seeks Software Update

18 Heritage Preservation Month — Preserving Cultural Landscapes

20 Project Reviews at the Palace, Mogollon, Fort Bayard & Northwest New Mexico

22 Historic Markers Remember the Cold War

Back Cover: HPD Staff

The Fort Bayard Hospital was photographed for an Historic American Building Survey in anticipation of its demolition. The fort celebrates its 150th anniversary this year but the 94-year-old hospital will be gone and its concrete walls pulverized for use in future road projects. For more on the story see page 23.

Photographers

Harvey Kaplan: Cover; Jeff Pappas p. 4; St John’s College, p. 10; Las Vegas City Hall, p. 9; Tax Credits, all photos pp. 12-14, awards photos p. 19

Tom Drake: CPRC p. 3; Interns p.5; Poster design p. 18. Ribbon cutting p. 22; Pat Lucero and retirement party photos, p. 24

Martin Stupich: Fort Bayard p.2; Scottish Rite Theater p. 18


Karla McWilliams: Puebloito p. 8; Awards p. 19.

Frank Hibben/Paleoindian Photographic Collection—Sandia Cave, Courtesy of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, University of New Mexico p. 6


Andrew Zink: Albuquerque Rail Yard p. 15.

Terry Moody: Petroglyphs p. 11

Kate Nelson: Palace of the Governors Repairs p. 20


Spears-Horn Architects: St Vrain Mill p. 8

Conservation Legacy: Youth Summit p.8

Cherie Scheick: Agua Fria p. 7

Tamara Stewart: Bat Caves p. 7

All other photos are from the HPD Photo Files or Wikimedia Commons/Public Domain

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How HPD Fulfills its Preservation Mission for the State

The Historic Preservation Division operates within the Department of Cultural Affairs as New Mexico’s state historic preservation office. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 called for state-based preservation programs in every state and U.S. territory. This year the Act marks its fiftieth anniversary.

In 1969, the New Mexico legislature passed the Cultural Properties Act, which established the Cultural Properties Review Committee. The CPRC sets policy and oversees certain functions of HPD, authorized as a division in 1977.

HPD’s mission is to record, evaluate, record, protect and preserve the diverse cultural resources that define the history and culture of New Mexico.

Working with HPD, the CPRC lists sites in the State Register of Cultural Properties and forwards them to the National Park Service for consideration in the National Register. It issues archaeological permits, guides and approves work for state preservation tax credits and evaluates the credentials of cultural resource specialists listed in the SHPO Directory. The committee approves Official Scenic Historic Marker texts and recommends locations for them. It annually presents awards for outstanding achievements in historic preservation.

State law requires the CPRC and HPD to file an annual report with the governor and legislature on its activities, and to include any needed recommendations for more effective preservation. The Activities Report fulfills that obligation, informs the public of our activities, and recommends a few changes in 2016.

The Budget at a Glance

HPD’s budget has not increased in three years. More than half the budget was made up of our share of the federal Historic Preservation Fund that is distributed to SHPOs nationwide by the National Park Service. The money is a federal grant and HPD in turn used $311,286 of for grants that helped stabilize archaeological sites, repair historic buildings, document history and fund research.

State general funds totaled $589,200 for operations and nearly $600,000 was income through user agreements and subscriber fees for use of HPD’s digital New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System.

Preservation revitalizes neighborhoods and commercial districts, which rebuilds communities. It is labor intensive and part of the foundation on which New Mexico’s $5.6 billion-culture industry is built. HPD works with individuals, governments, organizations and pueblos to preserve the historic sites that have drawn visitors to the state for generations and enhance the lives of those fortunate enough to live in the Land of Enchantment.
Maybe avocation is not quite the word to describe what I’m suggesting in the title of this short article. The dictionary, too, seems to fall far short. It says that an avocation is a hobby or a part-time job. But we all know that teaching is much more than that. Under the best circumstances teaching can transcend lives, change the path of the redirected and adjust one’s position in life. That’s how I see it and, if my personal experiences matter, whatever privilege I’ve enjoyed these past twenty years bears witness to a small list of committed great teachers and professors.

Over the past two decades, in either a part-time or a full-time capacity, I’ve had an opportunity to teach at three excellent institutions: Worcester Academy, Colorado State University, and the University of New Mexico, where presently I co-teach with colleague Steven Moffson, HPD’s State and National register coordinator. A few years ago, then director of the Historic Preservation Certificate program at UNM, Chris Wilson, asked if I’d be interested in teaching a graduate level research methods class in the school of architecture and planning. I was relatively new to the state, having just left a teaching post at CSU, so naturally I said yes.

Saying yes was not that hard. In fact, it was completely in tune with my philosophy about teaching and work. Before joining the NMSHPO, teaching played a vital role in my development as a professional historian, a career path that always managed to integrate applied history with academic work. Even as faculty advisor for the WA history club, I developed an after school oral history program which explored Worcester and its active WWII home front industries. Current students interviewed their grandparents, gathering first-hand accounts of the city and its part in munitions production during the war. It was great fun, certainly educational, but more importantly it connected the kids to their elders in ways not possible during school.

Drawing on real life, applied examples of history makes the classroom experience better. It adds nuance and lifts history up from beneath the lectures and textbooks. A necessary first step to enliven history is to engage the academic experience with real life case studies. Bringing history to the classroom by someone who practices it every day is a good way to do that. Not to mention it funnels some really good interns to HPD from UNM, New Mexico State University, and Highlands University, giving these young professionals a close-up look at preservation.

It’s a natural fit and a good one, teaching at UNM. The relationship keeps me current in scholarship and technology, which seems to change overnight. For the students, it gives them an opportunity to mull over real life case studies, critical happenings that are presently playing out in New Mexico, like energy development, adobe restoration, archaeology, records management, and many others. So here’s to teaching, still the best avocation bar none.
In 2015, the HPD Internship Program, mentored three interns, Mahmoud Amer Ahmed Mohamed, Ben Craske and Hana Crawford. Amer earned his B.A. in Egyptology and a M.A. in Coptic Language from Sohag University. Ben is a student in the Public History Program at New Mexico State University. He was an undergraduate at the University of Warwick, Coventry, UK, which included a year abroad at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Hana graduated from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, with specialized studies in Self, Society and Culture, and earned an M.A. in Oral History from Columbia University. Her thesis was a series of interviews she collected at a tent city community in Portland, Oregon.

Amer came to HPD under the auspices of the U.S., Dept. of State, which sponsors an International Visitor Leadership Program. HPD archivist Anna Naruta-Moya and her husband, Daniel Moya, facilitated the internship, so Amer could learn about preservation education in the United States. He visited the National Park Service office at the Old Santa Fe Trail Building, the Conservation Lab at Museum of International Folk Art, and the collection at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. He accompanied members of the Royal Saudi family, HPD’s Karla McWilliams and Pilar Cannizzaro, and Felicia Katz-Harris and Director Marcia Bol, of MOIFA, on a trip to Taos Pueblo, a World Heritage Site.

Ben was referred to HPD by Dr. Peter Kopp of New Mexico State University. He worked with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and former SHPO Katherine Slick preparing for ACHP’s conference, “Building a More Inclusive Preservation Program: American Latino Heritage,” which was held at the Laboratory of Anthropology. The conference was part of ACHP’s initiative to reach out to underserved communities. He also attended a variety of meetings with Dr. Pappas, ranging from a two-day session with the New Mexico Public Schools Facilities Authority to regular compliance meetings with state and federal agencies.

As Intern coordinator, I exposed both Amer and Ben to some of Santa Fe’s educational and cultural opportunities. They went to the colloquia at the School of Advanced Research and the Brainpower and Brown Bags lectures at the Fray Angélico Chávez History Library, toured the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture with curator Tony Chavarria and the New Mexico History Museum with its marketing manager, Kate Nelson. They attended Santo Domingo Feast Day, and discussed similarities and differences with festivals in Egypt, Great Britain and Santo Domingo.

Also in 2015 HPD advertised for oral history internship, a joint venture with the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. The foundation wanted to collect interviews with some of the oldest members of the traditional Agua Fria community. HPD set a goal of gathering interviews with New Mexicans who have participated in the preservation tax credit program.

Hana worked primarily with tax credit program coordinator Harvey Kaplan. She produced, directed and edited interviews of four people who have used the program, and delivered a high quality documentary that is available on our website, Facebook page and at YouTube. She also accompanied State and National Register coordinator Steven Moffson to Roswell for preliminary documentation of the Afro-American experience in that community.

Director Pappas and I agree that this has been a productive and useful year. Our interns learned much about preservation “in the real world,” and HPD benefited from the presence of young people with fresh ideas and new perspectives. We expect 2016 to be even more successful.
At one time Sandia Cave and University of New Mexico archaeologist Frank Hibben were in the national spotlight. In 1937 he led university excavations that lasted several years at the cave in the Sandia Mountains outside of Albuquerque and found what he termed “Sandia points,” projectile points that dated human occupation of the New World to 25,000 years ago. A previous discovery at Folsom, New Mexico, estimated humans were here 10,000 years ago. Hibben’s pronouncement turned the field of archaeology on its head and landed him in Time magazine and later on national television. It subsequently was labeled a hoax by some archaeologists and supported by others. Currently the generally accepted period for humans using Sandia Cave is the Folsom Period. The cave is a National Historic Landmark, and last summer an Historic Preservation Division grant funded a substantial part of UNM’s effort to restore it and remove graffiti from its walls and surroundings.

The $16,777 grant was one of 11 grants awarded to fund diverse projects including a youth summit on Chaco culture, restoration of one of the most historic homes in Las Cruces—now the chamber of commerce building—and an assessment of the conditions of San José de Gracia Mission Church in the Las Trampas Historic District a National Historic Landmark. The Historic Preservation Grants and those awarded to Certified Local Government realized $311,286 in grant awards that helped fund $662,492 in preservation work statewide.

North Central

Sandia Cave, along with its cultural and historic significance, is a traditional cultural property for several Pueblos. Popular with tourists and locals, it is visited by thousands of people every year. The cave was defaced with spray paint and trash and by June 2015 graffiti obscured much of what was historically significant about the cave.
covered 11 acres and was one of the largest along the Santa Fe River. Pre-Colombian residents used nearby springs and the riparian environment to grow crops on terraced fields, according to the updated National Register nomination completed under a second grant. The grantee was the Rio Grande Foundation for Communities and Cultural Landscapes. HPD: $57,492; Projects: $95,202

San Jose de Gracia Church in the Las Trampas Historic District, is a National Historic Landmark, and the only original building remaining on the community’s plaza. Built between 1760 and 1776, the adobe church is notable for its 18th and 19th century altar screen, Spanish motifs decorating the entry hall ceiling and its use by the congregation to observe agricultural phases. Every few years, they re-mud the church. Cornerstones Community Partnerships received the grant to document the building’s structure. HPD: $10,000; Project: $85,274

Southwest

The “Bat Cave” is a 34.6-acre complex of wave-cut rock shelters formed when a massive lake 165 feet deep began receding and eventually dried up. Overlooking the Plains of San Agustin in Catron County, it was the first radiocarbon-dated U.S. archaeological site. Maize found there was the result of trade with Mesoamerica 3,100 years ago. A grant was awarded to Tamarch CRM Services to update the 1976 National Register nomination, reassess site conditions, and provide new information about the area’s significance in agricultural development in the Southwest. HPD: $6,957; Project $11,903

Sandia Cave before the clean-up. The entrance is nearly 300 feet up the side of a cliff. It is reached by a series of steps and platforms and finally by a spiral metal staircase—also vandalized—to the cave’s entrance. UNM coordinated 32 volunteers from SiteWatch, National Speleological Society’s Sandia Grotto chapter and others who removed graffiti in two weeks using water and biodegradable cleansers including Elephant Snot®. UNM hosted a volunteer clean-up of Sandia Cave that drew an additional 100 volunteers the weekend of June 27. HPD: $16,776.63; Project: $28,045.53

In Santa Fe, an Historic American Building Survey was completed on the 102-year-old Scottish Rite Temple to provide an historic record housed at the Library of Congress. The survey is an exhaustive history and photographic documentation of the building. A team of preservation experts recommended archival care of the original Hunt & Burns architectural renderings used to construct the Scottish Rite in 1912. HPD: $20,306; Project: $33,863

The Agua Fria School House Site was the second archaeological site recorded by the state Laboratory of Anthropology in the 1930s. A 2014–2015 grant funded new excavations that unearthed a pit structure, Adobe walls, room blocks, funerary ceramics and corn cobs. The 13th and 14th century pueblo

Crews restore the second floor porch of the Armijo House. The Nestor Armijo House is one Las Cruces’ oldest homes, built in the 1870s just 20 years after the city was founded. It was the city’s first two-story home when completed in the 1880s. Our grant helped fund an adaptive re-use of the home as a future chamber of commerce. Porches, doors and interior woodwork were restored and an original wood-frame window—removed and stored 35 years ago—reinstalled. The 1976 National Register nomination was updated as part of the grant the grant. HPD: $43,305; Projects: $86,190

Southeast

Carrizozo, like thousands of small towns across the U.S. kept losing population. But since Gov. Susana Martinez designated it one of seven Frontier Communities under Main-Street, new businesses are opening and artists moving in. An HPD grant was awarded to establish part of the former railroad town as an historic district, a main Frontier Community goal. The grant also funded a survey of buildings designed and built by local contractor Frank English. He used the early twentieth century utilitarian commercial style sometimes referred to as Chicago style. HPD: $4,705; Projects: $7,839

Part of a pit structure unearthed during 2015 excavations of the Agua Fria School House Site.

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Northwest

Stabilizing the 300-year-old Navajo pueblito at Garcia Canyon required funding from several grants including ones from HPD and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The 10-room structure built on an isolated boulder dates to 1712. The land was privately owned until 2011 when the Archaeological Conservancy bought it to preserve the stone, wood and mud defensive structure. Some Native Americans fled to northwestern New Mexico during the Spanish Reconquest and built pueblitos between 1690 to 1780 that were partly modeled on earlier pueblos. HPD: $29,858; Project: $70,353

The ground floor of St. Vrain’s Mill.

Ceran St. Vrain built a grist mill in Mora County in 1864 that produced 100,000 pounds of flour each year. The mill supplied grain to Fort Union and provided employment until 1933 when it shut down. The stone building has deteriorated ever since. The St. Vrain Mill Preservation and Historical Foundation raised funds to buy it in 2015, with plans to convert to a cultural center. HPD’s grant funded clean-up and a structural report for preserving it. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the National Trust awarded a second grant and Southwest Capital Bank in Las Vegas provided matching funds. HPD: $11,820; Project: $22,562

Northeast

Chaco Canyon National Historical Park and Salmon Ruins. Students participated in excavations of a Chacoan kiva by San Juan College’s Total Archaeological Field School at the B-Square Ranch and helped stabilize prehistoric walls at Salmon Ruins. The three-day summit included sessions at Aztec Ruins National Monument, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Salmon Ruins Museum and the Bolack Ranch to witness excavation of an archaeological site. Much of the experience was hands-on. Students helped stabilize ancient walls using traditional methods and curated artifacts. HPD: $25,000; Project: $41,880

Rich in cultural heritage, northwestern New Mexico was the venue for a Preserve America Youth Summit attended by 54 middle and high school students. They attended sessions at Aztec Ruins National Monument, Chaco Canyon’s Chetroket Kietl great house.

Youth recording artifacts at Chaco Canyon’s Chetroket Kietl great house.

Annual CLG Grants

Created by an amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act, the Certified Local Government program incorporates preservation into community planning and guarantees certified communities the opportunity each year to apply for annual preservation grants.

CLGs become part of a pipeline for technical assistance, information and training. Local preservation programs gain credibility because they enact ordinances backed by federal and state guidelines. Public participation is encouraged through establishment of a local commission. The program is a partnership among local governments, HPD and the National Park Service.

HPD is required by the federal government to set aside 10 percent of its annual federal funding to provide CLG grants. Eight New Mexico municipalities are CLGs. Five of them received CLG Grants this year totaling $85,063.80 and spurred $179,378.92 in total preservation projects. CLG grant activities are summarized below.

Albuquerque

The Silver Hills Historic District was established in 1986 and much has changed since then. The grant updated the National Register nomination to reflect current conditions of buildings and other resources in this part of Albuquerque bordered by Central Ave., Yale Blvd., Central New Mexico Community College and Presbyterian Hospital and a part of UNM. HPD: $5,000; Project: $10,997.

Silver Hills Historic District.
Deming
The city developed design guidelines for buildings in the Deming Downtown Historic District and completed an initial design scheme to guide work on Morgan Hall. Built in 1908 as a city hall and fire station, Morgan was enlarged and redesigned in the Pueblo Revival style by the W.P.A. in 1938 with meeting rooms, a stage and auditorium that now hosts a community theater program. HPD: $11,106  Project: $21,502

Santa Fe
The city completed the third phase of a building heights survey within Santa Fe’s historic districts and hired a consultant to create a geodatabase with GIS interface to manage archaeological resources and create a digital archive of case files in the Historic Downtown Archaeological Review District. HPD: $25,000; Project: $54,939
Under a separate grant, Santa Fe completed the second phase of the geodatabase project by scanning more documents than originally was allowed for and linking them to the geodatabase. HPD: $8,000; Project: $19,934.

Silver City
Get the Lead Out! (and Asbestos”) was a workshop attended by 23 people about the hazards of exposure to lead and asbestos and how to control it. Regulations and contractor certifications were examined; the town’s historic Waterworks building was used as a case study. The grant also helped fund the CLG staff person who works with the Town of Silver City on historic preservation. HPD: $11,889; Projects: $23,822

Las Vegas
East Las Vegas City Hall was built between 1892–1896 in the Italianate Romanesque style during the town’s railroad heyday. It housed the first library and was headquarters for the police and fire departments. It’s striking bell tower is fouled by pigeon guano, the roof leaks and the building has been vacant for years. The grant funded a feasibility and structural assessment to guide restoration. The city plans to administer public services from the building. The CLG also re-designed and printed its popular “Historic Las Vegas Walking Tour” guide. HPD: $35,178; Projects: $69,685

Grants 2016
Technology & Preservation

In 2016, HPD is facilitating a National Park Service initiative for better representation of minority communities in historic preservation.
HPD received one of 13 NPS grants awarded to states focusing preservation on underserved communities. Nationally, grants totaled $500,000 and HPD received $59,627 to facilitate a tribal summit and develop software for surveying buildings and historic sites Native American communities.
HPD will award one grant for a summit of New Mexico’s 19 pueblos, federal and state governments. Whatever consensus develops on preserving buildings, structures and cultural landscapes will guide software development, which will be funded under a second grant.
The “Pueblo Nations Preservation Summit” will be a venue for tribes to present recent or ongoing preservation successes. The pueblos will discuss with preservationists at the state and federal levels different cultural approaches for reusing historic buildings.
The resulting digital application will be used by people in the community to gather and record data on historic pueblo buildings and generate maps showing their conditions. The high-tech tool will be piloted at three pueblos.
The grant is part of an NPS initiative to improve representation of Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, the LGBT community and other minorities in the National Register of Historic Places. Montana, for example, received a grant to inventory African American heritage. Kentucky and New York will document LGBT heritage, and California will add Latino properties to the Register.
A family-run restaurant, the state’s first highway and New Mexico’s only college campus designated an historic district in its entirety are among diverse cultural resources listed in the State Register of Cultural Properties and the National Register of Historic Places in 2015.

St. John’s College in Santa Fe marked its fiftieth anniversary and was designated an historic district. Nestled in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the 260-acre campus is the sister campus to one established in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1784.

Completed in a modern adaptation of Territorial Revival-style, architects Edward O. Holein and William R. Buckley designed buildings constructed from 1964–1973 with John Gaw Meem, who also donated land for the entire campus. Many of the buildings are connected by portals and some built around courtyards. Modernist landscaping by Garrett Eckbo incorporates the campus’s high-desert surrounds, while inside the work of master designer Alexander Girard’s is found in the Peterson Student Center, most notably on his mural illustrating the seven liberal arts disciplines.

Although the University of New Mexico has buildings listed in the National Register and part of Western New Mexico University in Silver City forms an historic district, St. John’s is the only campus in the state that retains enough design integrity to be entirely designated one. It also is historically significant as the first college in the nation to devote its entire curriculum to the Great Books Program, developed in the 1920s and 1930s to provide a comprehensive liberal arts education.

Chope’s Town Café and bar is known regionally for its spicy New Mexican food and as a community gathering place where people socialize and discuss politics in tiny La Mesa outside Las Cruces. The Benavides family founded it in 1915 and has owned it for 100 years.

Started by Longina and Margarito Benavides in the family’s dining room, she served enchiladas to locals and named the restaurant for her son, Chope, so nicknamed for the chopos, or overalls, he constantly wore as a child. José “Chope” Benavides took over the business in the 1940s and opened a bar in a building next door.

By 1942, the Benavides family was involved with the Braceros Program, which provided much of the produce used in their restaurant. The program permitted Mexican nationals to live and work in the U.S., generally in agricultural jobs. Chope expanded the restaurant and opened it regularly for political gatherings. While his opinion on local and state issues was highly valued, he never ran for office himself.

It took a year to prepare the Chope’s nomination. New Mexico State University students Addison Warner and former CPRC member Dr. Beth O’Leary, Anthropology Professor Emerita, completed it. People still drive from Texas, Arizona and many parts of New Mexico to experience Chope’s.
Raton Pass Scenic Highway was the first automotive gateway into New Mexico. Completed in 1908, convicts were marched from the penitentiary in Santa Fe to Raton to link Colorado and New Mexico by highway. It was built through a pass historically known for treacherous narrow passages, harrowing weather and windy hairpin turns. It was the mountain route of the Santa Fe Trail and later used by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway.

The historic district includes 1.5 miles of the original highway that ascends 600 feet up Goat Hill from the city and the large “Raton” sign built of 18-foot high letters in the early days of automobile tourism. It is considered a significant early highway engineering achievement and historic for its role in politics, transportation and government.

The stretch of road within the district is asphalt and gravel and can be navigated by passenger car, but much of the original highway to Colorado cannot. The route was altered and rerouted over time and portions are supplanted by I-25, which also becomes impassable during severe weather at Raton Pass.

Two important archaeological sites were listed. Petroglyph Hill has more than 2,000 rock art images depicting birds, lizards, mammals, horned human-like creatures and abstract symbols etched into rocks on two volcanic summits overlooking the western Galisteo Basin south of Santa Fe.

There is a cluster of images dating to the Archaic period from 5,500 B.C. to A.D. 200 but most are from the Coalition period (A.D. 1200-1325) and Classic Period (A.D. 1326—1600). Images from New Mexico’s Territorial and Statehood periods can be found as well.

Petroglyph Hill sports splendid views of Galisteo Basin. Although humans visited the site during the Archaic period, it likely was most frequented as a ceremonial site from the Coalition through Classic periods by residents of nearby Burnt Corn and other pueblos in the area. Their descendants maintain traditional ties with Petroglyph Hill, which is one of 26 Galisteo Basin archaeological sites protected by an act of Congress.

K’uuyemugeh also is a significant ceremonial site and one of the earliest densely populated settlements on the northern Rio Grande. Established more than 1,200 years ago, it is notable for its great kiva 52-feet in diameter that served communities until 1150 A.D. It is one of 10 known kivas at the pueblo whose descendants reside in Pojoaque Pueblo about 15 miles north of Santa Fe. Archaeology revealed “unusual ceremonial animal burials,” that further indicate the pueblo’s importance as a significant spiritual center.

Property listings are primarily funded by the Historic Preservation Fund, which is divided among the nation’s SHPOs. These New Mexico cultural resources were listed in the National Register in federal fiscal year 2015 and were previously listed in the State Register.

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Locomotive Shops Historic District, Bernalillo Co.
Luis A Jimenez Jr. and Susan B. Jimenez House and Studios, Lincoln Co.
Peter and Henriette Wyeth Hurd House and Studios Historic District, Lincoln Co.
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Colfax Co.
Oliver Lee Dog Canyon Ranch, Otero Co.
San José Hall, Santa Fe Co.
Chope’s Town Café and Bar, Dona Ana Co.
Delgado Street Bridge, Santa Fe Co.
St. John’s College—Santa Fe Historic District, Santa Fe Co.
K’uuyemugeh (LA 835), Santa Fe Co.
Grants Milan Flight Service Station, Cibola Co.
Lordsburg High School, Hidalgo Co.
Los Alamos Post Office, Los Alamos Co.
Raton Pass Scenic Highway Historic District, Colfax Co.

There are approximately 1,865 petroglyphs at Petroglyph Hill.
Overhauling the State Preservation Tax Credit

The Cultural Properties Tax Credit was established in 1984 by the legislature. It is administered by HPD, the CPRC and the Tax and Revenue Department. HPD works with the public on applications and acceptable changes to historic buildings and also represents the National Park Service in administering federal preservation tax credits in New Mexico. The CPRC reviews and approves the two phases of state tax projects and meets with the public on proposed rehabilitations. The Tax and Revenue Department facilitates the credit which can only be taken over a five-year period against state income tax liability.

Projects up to $50,000 are eligible for a 50-percent credit with the maximum credit being $25,000. The only exception is in MainStreet-designated Arts and Cultural Districts where an enhanced credit is available. Properties listed in the State Register of Cultural Properties or that contribute to an historic district are subject to the credit.

Except for the A&C district credit maximum of $50,000 there have been no changes to the program in more than 30 years.

Proposed Changes

Make the credit entirely refundable. Currently many owners of historic homes and buildings are unable to take the full credit because of limited state income tax liability. This is often seen as a disincentive to using the program since the credit generally exceeds state income tax liability and is rarely fully realized by the property owner. Revisions would allow refund checks to be issued after tax liability is met.

Establish a sliding scale credit of up to $285,000 for $1 million in expenses for income-producing or commercial properties within the borders of A&C districts, Frontier Communities and MainStreet districts. The higher limits would encourage commercial redevelopment in historic parts of cities and towns.

Make the credit entirely refundable for the first time, a tax credit equal to half of eligible home rehab costs up to $50,000 would be refundable through a government check with the maximum refund capped at $25,000.
“In my opinion, it’s the more rural areas that really have some gems of buildings that need to be saved and restored.”

—Stephen Crozier, Hotel Clovis Lofts, a multi-million-dollar redevelopment of the once derelict, eastern New Mexico Art Deco landmark.

“I think the refundability component and increasing the amount would be a huge asset to providing the additional incentive that we need to convert these buildings.”

—Terry Mossman, developer of 15 rental properties—eight using tax credits program—in Las Vegas.

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“The tax credit is a powerful tool. A refundable tax credit is...a powerful tool squared.”

To us, it’s not just having a steakhouse; it’s having that cultural property that is so intimately connected with Northern New Mexico and with this traditional New Mexican village.”

—Heidi Steele, co-owner with partner Dave Campbell, who is on the cover of the Activities Report, of Doc Richards’ Store, Cerrillos.

Tax Credits in 2015

Tax credits for 28 historic homes and two commercial building were approved by the Cultural Properties Review Committee during the 2015 federal reporting year. The 30 projects represent $445,426 invested into historic properties statewide and $226,943 in potential state income tax credits.

The Simms Building, a Mid-Century Modern architectural landmark in Albuquerque, was one of two commercial projects statewide. Work was completed in 2014 when federal tax credits were approved for the $7.8 million rehabilitation of the 13-story office tower and state credits approved in 2015. Almost fully occupied, it is home to many innovative new businesses and headquarters for the New Mexico State Auditor’s Office.

HPD facilitated tax credits for the owners, Peterson Properties. The firm preserved the building’s architectural details and bills the Simms as Albuquerque’s only Mid-century Modern office space, alluding to its “Mad Men”-era design.

In Las Vegas, a small commercial building in the Douglas-Sixth Street Historic District became a venue for selling antique and “found objects” used to furnish homes or create art. The owner, Willow Allen, installed ADA-compliant restrooms, new electrical, plumbing and heating, and repainted the storefront. She hired a craftsman who replicated several rusted and missing metal ceiling panels by
Ross & Katie Burkstaller’s tax rehabilitation was something of a case study in preserving historic windows. The Burkstalkers were all for saving the original wooden, double-hung windows on their Spruce Park Historic District home in Albuquerque following a bad experience replacing windows on a property in nearby Nob Hill. The replacements failed after a few years. The manufacturer honored the warranty by sending parts and detailed instructions to repair the spring-operated modern windows, but the Burkstallers found it frustrating. The restored windows on their Spruce Park home operate like new. The couple was so taken with their historic windows they replicated them for an addition. Additions are ineligible for credits but work on the original windows and cabinets was.

The son in a father-son rental properties team in Las Cruces’ Alameda-Depot Historic District replaced the flat roof of an historic rental property he owns. Zephyr Butler sloped the roof to current industry standards using a tapered, rigid insulation the covered with roofing material. Sloping a flat roof improves run-off and discourages leaks. Infrastructure improvements and maintenance to historic homes are generally covered by tax credits. His father, Jagan, used the program on the house he owns next door.

Albuquerque’s Fourth Ward Historic District is part of the city’s historic overlay zone meaning it is affected by a design review board as part of the city’s CLG. Historic home owner Stephen Littlejohn’s house on Luna Boulevard, just west of downtown, restored his original, hand carved vigas maintaining their individual characteristics, repaired major wall cracks and restuccoed the entire home, work eligible for tax credits. The 2015 project was one of several completed by Littlejohn who began preserving his home with HPD and the CPRC in 1999.

Zephyr Butler reroofed an historic home in Las Cruces.

The Littlejohn home near downtown Albuquerque

Take Our Survey — How Well Are We Preserving New Mexico?

Do you have a favorite old building or house you make a point of passing by? And archaeological sites—does the idea of unearthing part of the past to learn more about how we arrived at the present strike a chord? If so, you probably are interested in historic preservation and should have a say about how it works in New Mexico.

HPD wants the public to take a survey about what works in historic preservation, what doesn’t, and where the focus should be in the future. The results will be used to help set a direction in historic preservation for the next five years and will guide people working to preserve buildings, archaeological sites, structures and cultural landscapes in New Mexico.

“Our survey provides citizens an opportunity to express their opinions about what preservation should be in New Mexico,” said Jeff Pappas, State Historic Preservation Officer and Director of HPD. “This survey should be taken by anyone with a fascination for history and the past, and those who are interested in education, community planning, infrastructure development, anthropology, archaeology and architecture.”

The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete and is accessed from the home page of HPD’s website. It specifically addresses cultural landscapes, mid-century-modern architecture, sustainable communities, climate change and the environment, and involving youth in preservation.

More than 400 people have taken the survey as of January. It closes at the end of February and results will be announced in the media and in a five-year preservation plan HPD will publish in 2016.
The Albuquerque Rail Yards, the foundation of the city’s early 20th century growth into New Mexico’s biggest city, is slowly coming back to life.

Abandoned and neglected for decades, interest in the 27-acre industrial site first was expressed by the film industry. Recently listed in the State and National historic registers, a farmers and arts-and-crafts market is held there each Sunday from May to November that draws hundreds of people fascinated by this part of Albuquerque history. The markets, holiday events and even weddings are held in the Blacksmith Shop with its multi-colored glass curtain walls and high ceilings, while an adjacent building houses The Wheels Museum.

In 2015, the City of Albuquerque began consulting with HPD to discuss adaptive re-use of the machine shops built by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway beginning in 1914. A permit granted by the CPRC for archaeological testing led to archaeological discoveries that allow us to better understand the Rail Yard’s history and provide a framework for redevelopment plans and designs.

The CPRC issued an annual archaeological investigation permit after HPD reviewed a request by the city to test excavate portions of the Rail Yard. The resulting digs revealed historical features that had been buried for more than 30 years and can be incorporated into future plans for the property.

One of the most significant finds was the remains of the foundation of the late 19th to early 20th century round house. Several unidentified structures from the same period and a tunnel whose purpose and age could not be determined also were found. The discoveries link the Albuquerque Rail Yards of the future to history made in these outstanding industrial-style buildings from turn-of-the-20th century.

Consultation and planning by the city and HPD continues in 2016 and will enable redevelopment and preservation of this unique and important archaeological and historic resource that has captivated the imagination of the public.

Permits in 2015

The CPRC issued 132 archaeological permits with the majority being General Archaeological Investigation Permits used to survey, monitor or test sites before they are developed. Eleven project-specific permits were issued or extended for qualified firms to excavate archaeological sites on state land. Six mechanical excavation permits were issued for work on private land. Permits to excavate unmarked burials were granted to two institutions on lands not managed by the state.

Highlights

- The Water Canyon Paleoindian Site in Socorro County was excavated with a project-specific permit for an archaeological field school conducted by the Office of Contract Archaeology through the University of New Mexico. UNM featured this work on its website.

- A project-specific and mechanical excavation permits were granted to excavate two sites for construction of a cryogenic natural gas processing plant in Eddy County.

- Project specific permits were issued for excavations at Blackwater Draw Locality 1 in Roosevelt County, a site along Albuquerque’s 98th Street, and a site at the New Mexico Army National Guard Readiness Center near Las Cruces in Dona Ana County.

- A mechanical excavation permit was authorized for work in proposed subdivisions in Bernalillo and Sandoval counties, and at an archaeological site located along a proposed extension of the Cortez Pipeline in Torrance County.
SiteWatch

A Year of Change

— Tom Drake, Public Relations

Members of the Santa Fe chapter examine an arroyo bank that is eroding into a roomblock at San Marcos Pueblo in the Galisteo Basin.

SiteWatch lost its statewide coordinator of seven years, Norm Nelson, who retired in October to spend more time with his family.

Norm came to HPD in 2008 in part to run SiteWatch, which had been without a coordinator for about a year when he took over. Phil Young coordinated trainings and activities of volunteers from 2005–2007. Under Young and Nelson the program and its small but active following grew by leaps and bounds; now there are 17 chapters of site stewards who monitor cultural sites in every part of the state.

In 2015, two new chapters were added—the Valencia County Chapter in Los Lunas, and the West Central Chapter based in Gallup. SiteWatch set a record of 18 chapters established in New Mexico.

The number of stewards statewide slightly declined by three to 277, but the number of people trained to monitor sites for erosion, vandalism or theft reached 590 since the program’s inception in 2002.

HPD is actively searching for a permanent, part-time SiteWatch coordinator and encourages inquiries.

Annual Conference

Each year the stewards, program coordinators and archaeologists gather in Albuquerque for an annual conference held at the University of New Mexico’s Hibben Center. Archaeological sites cover vast time periods in different ages and eras, and the 2015 presentations drove that point home.

Gila National Forest archaeologist Chris Adams focused on metal-detector use. The practice has a controversial past but recently has become accepted. Adams is an expert. He demonstrated simple, backyard models and deluxe equipment costing upwards of $5,000. High-end equipment can detect objects two feet underground and avoids disturbing underground cultural resources.

Jemez Historic Site director Matthew Barbour interpreted a Confederate mass grave found in 1987 at Glorieta Pass, the site of the decisive battle that forced Southern troops home and is referred to as the Gettysburg of the West. Discoveries reinforced war’s brutalities. Soldiers’ remains were found in graves sometimes three deep, buried head to toe. Skull and chest wounds were so severe that bones clearly shattered upon impact. Belt buckles, Goodyear rubber combs, tobacco pipes, letters and other personal effects helped identify some of the remains and those of Major John Shropshire, of Texas, were returned to his family. Thirty bodies were re-interred in Santa Fe National Cemetery in 1993.

UNM Anthropology Professor Bruce Huckell addressed the lack of knowledge about Paleoindian sites and used Mockingbird Gap south of Socorro as a case study. Compared to sites from other eras, few Paleoindian sites are recorded. As a result, their associated resources often are unprotected. Dating from 10,500 B.C.–7,500 B.C., the sites are associated with nomadic hunters and gatherers as opposed to those from the Archaic period which represent settlements developed around agriculture. Conferees gained a new understanding of their importance, and how to find, record, investigate and preserve them.

Chapters

Central-Albuquerque
Chaco Canyon
Elephant Butte/Caballo
Jemez Mountains–Los Alamos
Lincoln Co.-Ruidoso
Middle Rio Grande–Socorro
North Central–Taos
Northeast–Portales
Northwest–Farmingdon
Sandia/Tijeras
Santa Fe/Galisteo Basin
Santa Fe National Forest
South Central–Las Cruces
Southeast–El Paso
Southwest–Silver City
Torrance Co.
Valencia Co.–Los Lunas
West Central–Gallup

Partners

Dr. Rebecca Procter, Assistant State Coordinator (N.M. Environment Dept.)
Mark Rosenblum, volunteer Deputy State Coordinator
Carol Branch, Santa Fe Open Space Vol. Coordinator
Phil Young, SiteWatch Coordinator Emeritus
Site Steward Foundation, Inc.
Archaeological Society of New Mexico
NMCRIS 2016

Crucial Update Required of Digital Preservation System

— Derek Pierce, ARMS Manager & Tom Drake

As anyone who uses a computer knows, technology seems to change overnight. Operating systems become outdated in a few years and are upgraded constantly to accommodate faster retrieval of the growing amount of information available online.

Five years has passed since HPD’s Archaeological Records Management Section upgraded its digital storage and retrieval system of New Mexico’s cultural resource records. New technological advances necessitate upgrading the 2010 New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System (NMCRIS). And looming federal requirements for paperless systems make it a pressing matter.

In September, HPD requested $400,000 from the Department of Information Technology, an appropriation that will be considered by the 2016 Legislature. It would fund a three-tiered upgrade of the system.

The first priority is upgrading the GIS software that powers the system’s online map service. The system’s current software was officially retired by its vendor in 2013. The map service lets planners access sensitive geographical data pertinent in considering archaeological and historic resources that may be affected by development in New Mexico. Nearly 900 individuals and agencies use NMCRIS as a planning and review tool to preserve cultural resources.

The second part of the upgrade is a redesign of the system’s interface. NMCRIS would become more user-friendly and the wealth of information stored in the system much easier to access by users. It would provide links to more than 50,000 scanned documents pertaining to archaeological sites, and historic buildings and structure. Users could quickly determine if the resource in question is eligible for listing in the State and National registers, a key factor in deciding if it should be preserved and how to go about it.

The system would handle more sophisticated queries, file attachment tools would be better designed, and enhanced information available on the system’s maps. The improvements would dramatically increase efficiency by allowing subscribers, outside users and HPD staff improved access to information needed to complete their jobs.

The third priority is to put in place a paperless system. Currently, the thousands of state and federal reviews HPD completes each year are submitted on paper and scanned by ARMS into NMCRIS. To bypass this step, three main documents must be digitized so HPD can meet the digital federal mandate. They are the Investigation Abstract Form detailing the scope of the project, an Archaeological Site Form that assigns it a Laboratory of Anthropology number, and the Historical Cultural Property Inventory Form used primarily to evaluate architecture. Digitized forms would let users enter information directly into NMCRIS, streamlining project reviews while storing valuable information for future use. Currently the three forms are downloaded from HPD’s website, filled out on a computer, printed and mailed for an official review.

The switch to a paperless system necessitates developing infrastructure and protocols for preserving digital files permanently, still one of the greatest challenges facing digital repositories. Moving to a paperless system increases efficiency by allowing users to access archives remotely by skipping travel to view documents archived on paper, and makes cultural data available to applicants and reviewers in real time. NMCRIS will better meet evolving user expectations in an increasingly digital, on-demand world, and HPD will be positioned to join its many federal partners in the digital age.

ARMS in 2015

ARMS curates records of cultural resource investigations. They are part of NMCRIS and used by archaeologists, architects, preservationists, government cultural resource managers, pueblos, universities and HPD staff.

NMCRIS subscribers and user agreements with government agencies and individuals brought $337,900 in revenue to HPD.

More than 3,100 archaeological sites and 4,600 historic properties were added to NMCRIS in federal fiscal year 2015. Records for 6,400 archaeological sites and 4,500 project records were added, reducing the backlog by 21 percent.

Records for 184,000 archaeological sites and 10,000 historic buildings and structures can be accessed through NMCRIS.
Preserving cultural landscapes that inspired artists who have worked in New Mexico was the 2015 Heritage Preservation Month theme. It built on recent Register listings of artists’ homes and studios. The intent was to raise awareness of landscapes that inspired well known American art and that the landscapes are fragile and should be protected.

The month-long celebration was capped by the largest awards ceremony in the event’s 43-year history and built on the theme by recognizing people who have preserved landscapes, buildings and archaeological sites, and in the case of Georgia O’Keeffe, the people who preserve her Abiquiú property.

For more than 40 years the brother-and-sister team of Agapita and Belarmino López have essentially curated the artist’s home and studio to museum standards. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1998, it looks much the same as it did the day she left it in 1984 to spend her final two years in Santa Fe.

The López’s took over the property’s care from their parents and were among seven people recognized with Lifetime Achievement awards. Clarence Fielder, an historian devoted to preserving African American history and a former Cultural Properties Review Committee member was remembered for his work. Nationally known archaeologist Dr. Carroll L. Riley was honored with a Lifetime Achievement award as were archaeologist Jake Barrow, and archaeologists Michael P. Marshall and Rory Gauthier.

More than 275 people crowded the atmospheric, Moorish-style theater of the Scottish Rite Center in Santa Fe to watch 40 individuals and organizations be recognized by the CPRC with awards. The ceremony, perhaps more than any in recent history, showed that preservation happens in small towns, big cities and in remote parts of the state, and people from every conceivable background are interested in preserving our past by working hard to do it. The public is encouraged to submit nominations in 2016.

50th Anniversary in 2016

Preservation Month is celebrated each May with a new theme. Events this year will be centered on the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. It codified the National Register of Historic Places, required federal agencies to consider the impacts of new construction on historic sites, and provides for public comment before a site can be altered. It created the U.S. preservation program carried out by state historic preservation offices in each state and U.S. territory. The Act raised awareness that there are alternatives to losing our history in order to build something new. The 2016 poster will be our 30th and depict the Act’s importance in New Mexico.
2015 Award Recipients

**Lifetime Achievement**

Jake Barrow — for his expertise in preserving earthen architecture.

Rory Gauthier — for scholarly achievement and preserving nationally important archaeological sites.

Michael P. Marshall — for becoming the leading authority on the archaeology of the Middle Rio Grande.

Agapita López & Belarmino López — for preserving the Georgia O’Keeffe Home and Studio for 40 years.

**Archaeological Heritage**

Janet MacKenzie — for elevating the archaeological significance of the Wells Petroglyph Project.

John Guth, Harriet Rosenstein & John Richardson — for their volunteer work archiving thousands of historical records for HPD-ARMS.

**Individual Achievement**

Phil & Rosanne Archuleta — for preserving Official Scenic Historic Markers and raising awareness of the history on them by publishing two books.

Carol Chamberland — for recording art in New Mexico and her paintings of the cultural landscapes of New Mexico.

Patricia L. Crown — for discovering cacao residue at Pueblo Bonito, which established trade between Chaco Canyon and Mesoamerica.

**Citizen Advocacy “Rita Hill”**

Edmund Saucedo — for raising awareness of the importance of Lordsburg’s historic architecture.

**Heritage Organization**

Fort Union Ranch/Edward A. Ames — for preserving the cultural landscape formed by Fort Union Ranch, the Santa Fe Trail and Fort Union National Monument.

Rene Rosa, Theresa Carmody & Priscilla Martinez — for the Wagon Mound Façade Squad’s preservation of three historic storefronts.

La Sociedad Folkloríaka de Nuevo Mexico — for preserving traditions that traveled El Camino Real and remain a part of our lives today.

Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian — for sensitively curating and documenting Native American art, jewelry and culture.

**Urban Design Within an Historic Context**

Harmon Barnett Morris, P.C. — for the adaptive re-use of the J.M. Radford Company Warehouse in Clovis.

**Architectural Heritage**

Dr. Joseph Sheppard, Stan Peña, Jason Clarke & Jaynes Corporation — for rehabilitating historic Light Hall on the Western New Mexico University campus.

Whitney Fort — for preserving Mid-Century Modern architecture in the Lovington Commercial Historic District.

Conron & Woods Architects — for preserving the De La O Saloon and the “Pink Buildings” in the village of Doña Ana.

Paul S. Namkung and Chris Spanovich — for restoring the 1846 Jose Martinez Mercantile building in Tierra Amarilla and re-establishing it as the community’s center.

**Heritage Publication**

Bruce Huckell, Ph.D. & J. David Kilby, Ph.D. — for co-editing Clovis Caches, which sheds new light on Paleoindian Clovis culture.

William Penner, Nick Parker & Shawn Kelley — for Ho! To the Land of Sunshine, a history of the railroad, Abo Pass and New Mexico.

Charles C. Hawk, Bill Druc, José La Cruz-Crawford, Andrew Tumason — for the structural assessment of Molino De Los Duranes, an important step in the preservation of the mill.

**Distinguished Lifetime Achievement**

Carroll L. Riley, Ph.D. — for a career spanning 65 years as a distinguished professor of anthropology and an expert in Southwestern Archaeology.

Clarence Fielder — for raising awareness of the importance of African American history in New Mexico and for seven years of service on the Cultural Properties Review Committee.

Award photos from the top: Gertrude Boyer accepts an award in memory of her brother, Clarence Fielder; Belarmino and Agapita López; Vick Riley accepts Dr. Riley’s awards with her father and mother, Brent, onstage; Paul Namkung and Chris Spanovich; Charles Strickfadden and Joseph Miner representing Fort Union Ranch and its owner, Edward Ames. The awards were a highlight of Preservation Month events in May. The Calendar of Events listed 30 events that were attended by 9,500 people statewide.
Navajo-Gallup Pipeline

It will cost nearly $1-billion to build a 280-mile long pipeline to vastly improve the water supply to a large part of the Navajo Nation, City of Gallup and part of the Jicarilla-Apache Nation. The current groundwater supply is unreliable and the quality increasingly poor. The area suffers from water shortages.

Building the pipeline will create 600 jobs over the life of the project. It also will enrich our knowledge of the area's history because the two pipelines will run through culturally significant parts of northwestern New Mexico. Archaeological investigations have found previously unknown ancestral Puebloan sites.

What’s up with the Palace?

If you've passed by the courtyard of the Palace of the Governors lately and wondered why the back of the building look bundled up for winter, it’s because it’s being preserved.

HPD is among a team of preservationists, archaeologists and restoration professionals focused on the exterior of the 405-year-old National Historic Landmark. Work halted when cold weather set in because adobe doesn’t cure properly when temperatures drop below freezing. So, after layers of moisture-trapping cement plaster was removed in summer—workers made curious discoveries including gaps where adobe bricks should have been but weren’t, and a key hanging from a nail pounded into an adobe brick—they filled the holes with new adobe and applied a skim-coat of lime plaster. Lime plaster does not trap moisture and allows adobe to breathe, a primary concern that spurred replacement of decades old cement plaster. The blankets and plastic are holding in heat for improved curing over winter.

The work is possible because of support in 2015 from the legislature, Gov. Susana Martinez and the Department of Cultural Affairs. HPD’s lead architectural reviewer Pilar Cannizzaro met with contractors to help ensure bid documents reflected preservation standards. She reviewed work as its progressed and will resume those duties when spring returns and crews finish re-plastering the courtyard walls.

But that is only the beginning. DCA will seek additional funds in 2016 for second-phase interior projects. Last year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation elevated the building’s status to “National Treasure,” placing it among 55 in the nation and one of three in New Mexico. The designation re-emphasized the Palace’s historic significance and the need to properly maintain it. After all the building has witnessed events that shaped the history of the state and the nation, and that is evidenced in the archaeology related to the current project.

HPD archaeologist Michelle Ensey reviewed an interim report submitted by consultant Stephen Post that ascertained most of the wall facing the courtyard likely was built between 1868–1870, during the Territorial Period and shortly after the Palace was briefly occupied by the Confederate Army. It was replastered with cement by Jesse Nussbaum, founder of the New Mexico Laboratory of Anthropology, during the 1909-1913 renovation of the Palace that gave it much of the look it has today. At the time no one knew this type of plaster could harm earthen construction. The report documents six different adobe and mortar patterns, lending further evidence the Palace has evolved over time. Today’s improvements are an ongoing part of that process.

Project Review

State and National Preservation Laws and How We Work with Them at HPD

— REVIEWERS PILAR CANNIZZARO, BARBARA ZOOK, BOB ESTES AND EDITOR TOM DRAKE CONTRIBUTED TO THESE STORIES
Mogollon

Fire, Flood and the Historic Mining Town

Mogollon has been without what many drivers would consider a passable road since a wall of water 40-feet deep and 15-feet wide washed out Bursum Road and two miles of N.M. Hwy. 159 in September 2013.

That will change in spring when construction begins on an $11-million road project, the culmination of what HPD views as one its most successful collaborations in 2015. New Mexico Department of Transportation has already spent $1.3 million to purchase right-of-way and design the road, which follows the stream through Silver Creek Canyon. The canyon walls rise 400-feet directly behind the buildings that line the main street of town.

The stage was set for the flood after the Mogollon Baldy fire burned 297,000 acres above the town. It made conditions ripe for a flash flood that stranded about 20 people and took the life of an elderly tourist.

There are two historic districts in Mogollon, one established in 1969, and the 1987 Fannie Hill Mill and Company Town Historic District encompassing the town and buildings associated with historic milling operations in the Mogollon Mountains. Fannie Hill Mill was the largest producer of gold and silver in the state for more than 30 years in the first half of the twentieth century. A company town, Mogollon had its own hospital, general store, blacksmith shop, theater, general store, saloons and brothels, and a church. Peak recorded population was 799 although local boosters put it closer to 2,000, perhaps because of transient miners who made the town their base.

The town is still privately owned, about 20 people have residences there and 45 of the buildings are historic. It is considered one of the three best preserved company towns in New Mexico boasting one of the two most intact mills in the state.

HPD, NMDOT and the engineering firm Parametrix devised a culturally sensitive road project to make the town less flood prone while preserving much of its western feel. About half of the town’s buildings and homes are separated from Bursum Road by Silver Creek, and have bridges that also were washed out in the flood. Some of the original rock retaining walls were saved and new walls and pedestrian and vehicular bridge will be built that won’t significantly alter the historic look of the town.

Parametrix was hired to survey and inventory buildings. The engineering firm met with HPD and NMDOT to develop a sensitive road project that retains the historic 14-width of Bursum Road and rebuilds its road bed, which was lowered 15 feet by the flood.

Coal mining was the area’s mainstay from ca. 1879–1930, although limited mining continued into the 1990s. An historic context has been developed as part of the project to provide a thorough coal mining history, and be used to evaluate historic resources for future State and National Register nominations.

The pipeline will divert 37,375 acre feet of water from the San Juan River Basin. It is one of 14 infrastructure projects in the nation being expedited by the Obama Administration through accelerated permitting and environmental reviews. The entire project will be completed in 2024 and provide enough water to support a projected population of 250,000 people in the year 2040.
With the advent of World War II, the military gained a strong foothold in New Mexico’s economy. Today the federal government provides more than a quarter of all jobs in the state and many of them are on military bases and army proving grounds. Most bases trace their roots to WWII and the Cold War. Their histories, how they evolved and adapted with changing times, and developments and milestones marked along the way were told on new historic markers in 2015.

Walker Air Force Base was the first historic marker approved in 2015. Established as Roswell Army Airfield, the U.S. Air Force designated it a Strategic Air Command Base after the war. During the early Cold War, it was renamed for Brig. Gen. Kenneth Walker, a New Mexico war hero from Los Cerrillos, whose plane was shot down over Papua New Guinea in 1943 and never found.

During the 1950s WAFB became the nation’s largest SAC base and the post-war home of the Enola Gay, the plane that dropped the atomic bomb over Hiroshima. The Vietnam War escalated and stretched military budgets thin, shuttering Walker in 1967. But it re-opened as Roswell International Air Center and continues to be an important part of Roswell’s economy and identity.

The Walker Aviation Museum proposed an Official Scenic Historic Marker commemorating the base. The CPRC approved it in February and helped dedicate in September as part of General Walker Day, which also marked Roswell’s celebration of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the 68th of the establishment of the U.S. Air Force. The museum, HPD, CPRC, New Mexico Department of Transportation District 2 and the Roswell Chamber of Commerce worked together to commemorate the base’s history and plan the dedication. The markers happen through a partnership where NMDOT builds and maintains them after HPD and the CPRC work with the public on the histories and texts.

Two additional Cold War-era markers were approved in 2015.

Project GNOME commemorates the first underground nuclear detonation in the Plowshare Program, which sought to harness the power of the atom bomb for peaceful purposes. Negative public perception resulted in Plowshare being canceled in 1977, but the site marks an important chapter in New Mexico Cold War History. Located in a remote part of Otero Co. off N.M. Hwy. 128, the new roadside marker will be installed 4.9 miles from what is considered the most accessible nuclear explosion site in the U.S. It was proposed by author Joseph T. Page II who writes about the history of the Space Age.

Holloman Air Force Base is one of the most active military bases in New Mexico. Originally a training ground for World War II bombing crews, several Cold War achievements originated there, including the world’s fastest land speed record on a rocket sled and the highest and longest parachute jump. It also is where Ham the Astrochimp was trained for the space launch that established humans could perform tasks while hurtling through space. HPD is working with the base to dedicate the marker in 2016.

Ham in the “biopack couch” from which he performed tasks while orbiting Earth in 1961.
New Markers and Rewriting History

When any of the approximately 600 Official Scenic Historic Markers is damaged or weathered and becomes illegible, the CPRC is afforded an opportunity to reassess its described history. These markers were addressed in 2015.

Roosevelt Co.

Buffalo Soldier Hill marker was reworded after the Cochran County Historical Commission in nearby Texas reported to HPD that it was vandalized. HPD, the CPRC and NMDOT District 2 worked to replace the damaged text plate in time for the Commission’s Last Frontier Heritage Day celebration.

Bernalillo Co.

Pajarito was completely rewritten. The original text and history were suspect. The history instead focused on El Camino Real and the nearby Gutierrez Hubbell House, and important travel and trading center listed in the National Register in 2015.

Otero Co.

Lucy Leper Shaw established what was perhaps the nation’s most successful Depression-era work camp for young women at today’s Baca Campground. She picked up on First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt’s idea of establishing girls’ camps similar to the highly successful Civilian Conservation Corps camps for young men and boys, and ran with it. In five years, more than 2,000 girls—primarily from destitute New Mexico families—passed through the camp and learned skills that opened doors and reshaped their lives.

Raton Ranch–Baca Campground marker addresses the World War II-era history of the site as companion marker to the one about Shaw. It tells how the site began as a CCC camp and later a Japanese internment camp after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Both markers were nominated by Lincoln National Forest archaeologist Mark Gutzman who researched them at the National Archives and with assistance from HPD.

Project GNOME and Holloman Air Force Base are addressed in the main article.

“Miss Mac” Pioneer Woman historic marker was corrected to acknowledge an impossibility in the original text. The refined Jessie MacMillan crossed the Atlantic in 1902 to begin her frontier life and could not have sailed the Lusitania as originally stated. The text was corrected to read that she came from England on the Lucania, launched in 1893. The error was discovered by the sharp eyes of travelers from California.

Santa Fe County

Agua Fria “Traditional Historic Community” historic marker was adopted by Santa Fe County, because it has jurisdiction over the stretch of Agua Fria Rd. The marker was installed decades ago when the road was a state highway. HPD worked with the Village Association and County Commissioner Miguel Chavez to revise the language and establish a maintenance agreement.

Sandoval

Cuba historic marker was rewritten to present a broader history of the small frontier agricultural community that succumbed to Navajo raids when first established in 1766. NMDOT District 6 requested replacement of the aged and illegible marker for the town, which today serves ranchers and is a gateway to Santa Fe National Forest.

San Ysidro Church is the “new” name on the marker commemorating the church, replacing “Iglesia de San Ysidro” on the historic marker in Corrales. San Ysidro Church is actually the historic name of the building now maintained by the Corrales Historical Society, which reported the marker was illegible. The Society and HPD revised the text, which now recognizes the three families who contributed land for what actually is the second San Ysidro Church. The first was destroyed when the Rio Grande flooded. Today the church is a performance space and community center.

from page 21

Fort Bayard Hospital

Built in 1922 and lauded as the nation’s largest hospital treating U.S. servicemen with tuberculosis, the 250-room Fort Bayard Veterans Hospital is coming down.

The legislature set aside $4.5 million for demolition, which led to the Facilities Management Division entering into an agreement with HPD to document the building’s history. Although the hospital is an important building within the Fort Bayard National Historic Landmark, the building’s size of more than 150,000 square feet was one of the reasons developers found it cost prohibitive to redevelop. FMD’s General Services Department sought proposals to redevelop it but the costs were prohibitive.

An Historic American Building Survey, the highest form of architectural documentation, was commissioned and will become part of the archives of the Library of Congress. HPD architect Pilar Cannizzaro has worked with all parties involved to map out the best way to preserve the hospital’s legacy.

Several general contractors and construction firms submitted demolition bids, and HPD helped vet the applicants. Silver City-based Tatsch Construction won the contract. Van Citters Preservation Inc., of Albuquerque, was hired to document the building’s history and the firm subcontracted photo-documentation to Martin Stupich, who captured the building’s Modernistic style.

Besides the building’s size, developers said bringing it to code also made it difficult to repurpose. The legislature agreed to fund demolition in 2012.

HPD has assisted Fort Bayard Historical Society and others to preserve the fort established in 1866 to protect miners from Native American hostilities. Gen. “Black Jack” Pershing was stationed there in 1886.
HPD lost one of its longest serving and most dedicated employees when Pat Lucero passed away on April 26. Pat archived project reviews and maintained State and National Register files. Robert Fletcher volunteered at ARMS for several years before taking an in-house archaeologist position in 2013. His love was photography and his professional career as a photographer spanned nearly 50 years. He passed away on November 5. Norm Nelson is pictured with staff at his retirement party, Oct. 28. He was HPD’s SiteWatch coordinator and a staff archaeologist for seven years, but held related positions beginning in 1978. Norm, wearing the blue shirt, left HPD to spend more time with his family.