



New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
Department of Cultural Affairs
www.nmhistoricpreservation.org

Monthly Report – February 2015

LUIS JIMENEZ HOME & STUDIO LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Considered one of the twentieth century's defining artists, Luis Jimenez had his home and two studios in Hondo Valley where he produced the majority of his monumental fiberglass sculptures. The National Park Service announced in late January that the properties are officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places. HPD Register coordinator Steven Moffson worked closely with Jimenez's widow, Susan, on the nomination. She attended the CPRC meeting and thanked the committee for recognizing the property, where she still lives. Much of the property is preserved as Jimenez last saw it when he died in 2006. The couple in 1985 converted an adobe school house and New Deal-era gymnasium in the valley into their home and studio, and Jimenez kept a second studio at an apple shed on a separate property.



Luis Jimenez's Southwest Pieta in Albuquerque's Martineztown was declared a national treasure by President Clinton in 1999. Photo: Tom Drake

CULTURE DAY

HPD will be among the divisions and museums of the Department of Cultural Affairs with a table and display at Culture Day at the Legislature, February 24. All available staff is participating and will be in the Capitol rotunda from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. to discuss preservation, help people build earthen structures with miniature adobe blocks and view a PowerPoint on the massive amount of archaeological and historic data archived at our Archaeological Records Management Section. The division will also give away posters, postcards and publications including the just published *Activities Report*, which will be distributed to the Legislature the day of the event. Tom Drake Public Relations, is coordinating events with much assistance from staff. He recently completed the *Activities Report* which is available on our website and in print from our downtown office.

PRESERVATION MONTH



The Black Place in northwestern New Mexico inspired a series of paintings by Georgia O'Keeffe. Photo: Karla McWilliams

Cultural landscapes, and especially those that inspired artists who lived or worked in New Mexico, is the theme for Heritage Preservation Month 2015. The theme was chosen at a committee of staff and SHPO Jeff Pappas that met recently to begin planning for this year's poster, the Heritage Preservation Awards presented by the CPRC and the archaeological and historic district tours, open houses, lectures and ceremonies that have become Preservation Month

staples.



Part of the Black Place landscape depicted by O'Keeffe can be seen in the distance behind this oil derrick. Photo: Tom Drake

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The theme is meant to draw attention to efforts to preserve cultural landscapes, and also those that have been encroached upon since they inspired works of art. It also reflects recent State and National Register nominations focusing on artists who lived and worked in New Mexico, and forthcoming nominations following a similar theme.

Work has already begun on the poster with ARMS archaeologist Robert Fletcher spending weekends photographing several landscapes, including the Black Place and Cerro Pedernal as potential poster images for 2015.

Heritage Preservation Month is a national event originated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and celebrated by most state historic preservation offices in either May or the fall. It is meant to draw attention to recent preservation efforts. This year's poster will be the 28th

poster issued by HPD. The CPRC will present the 43rd annual Heritage Preservation Awards at a ceremony currently scheduled for May 8 at the Scottish Rite Center.

Preservation Month is coordinated by Tom Drake working with all HPD staff. This year's *Calendar of Events*, which generally lists 35-50 events held statewide, is being compiled by Victoria Jacobson of the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance. The poster and *Calendar* will be available in early April. Staff and the public are encouraged to submit event and award nominations. Forms and instructions are available on HPD's website: www.nmhistoricpreservation.org. Preservation Month 2015 has received initial statewide media coverage.



Bob Fletcher photographing Black Place. Photo: Tom Drake

GRANTS

HPD has awarded 10 grants for 2015, winnowing down a field of 19 potential candidates and nearly half-a-million in requests to \$196,176 in funded requests. Projects range from an \$86,190 adaptive re-use of the 1866 Nestor Armijo House in Dona Ana County into a Chamber of Commerce to an Historic American Building Survey of the Scottish Rite Center in Santa Fe. Also funded were requests to complete an historic district nomination in Carrizozo, stabilization of the Garcia Canyon Pueblito in Rio Arriba County to structural evaluation and graffiti removal at Sandia Cave outside Albuquerque. Karla McWilliams coordinated the review process, with many staff participating in the reviews. Projects will be completed in fall, and will invest more than \$450,500 into local preservation. Grants require at least a 40-percent match and many proposals exceeded that amount.

MORADA PRESERVED

The landscape surrounding a morada near Taos will be preserved for the time being. In the last *Monthly Report* it was reported that Taos County and the Valdez Acequia Association had contacted HPD about private plans to build a two-story solar house next to *Morada de San Antonio* in Rio Hondo Valley near the village of Valdez. HPD architectural reviewer Barbara Zook said potential buyers of the adjacent property

have withdrawn their offer. At present there are no plans to build anything adjacent to the 120-year-old morada. The building has been listed in the State Register of Cultural Properties since 2000.

TAX CREDITS IN THE NEWS

The Simms Building rehabilitation in Albuquerque became the biggest preservation tax credit project completed in New Mexico in 2014. Tax Credit coordinator Harvey Kaplan said the National Park Service this month approved \$1.1 million in federal credits on \$5.6 million eligible work. Owners Mae and Douglas Peterson bought the iconic mid-century, 13-story office building in 2013 and immediately set out to preserve it. Its iconic stairwell, glass façades, Thermopane windows and other 1954 architectural details were preserved in the \$7.8 million project. The Simms project received the maximum state tax credit of \$50,000 because the building is part of the Albuquerque Arts and Cultural District.

Meanwhile, a residential tax credit project in Albuquerque's Los Alamos Addition Historic District earned praise for Harvey and the program from Steve and Nancy Cogan who own an historic home in the district. They reroofed part of their house, replaced rotted soffits and decking and repaired all but three rafter tails that were replaced in-kind to match the historic ones. They also repaired and painted weathered wood trim and patched stucco. The Cogans said extra work on details such as the soffits was possible because they were found eligible for nearly \$20,000 in tax credits. They thanked Harvey for his advice and said they are very pleased with their restoration.



The Simms Building was praised for its design and innovation by *Architectural Forum* when it was completed in 1954. Photo: Harvey Kaplan

SITEWATCH CONFERENCE

HPD's annual SiteWatch conference was well attended over the weekend. The program announced it has 288 volunteers, up from 266 a year ago and is now the second largest SiteWatch program in the U.S. after the Arizona program. The conference was put together by HPD SiteWatch coordinator Norm Nelson who provided opening remarks with SHPO Jeff Pappas and Deputy SHPO and State Archaeologist Jan Biella. Sessions included metal detection at archaeological sites by Chris Adams, of the U.S. Forest Service; Historic Sites' Matthew Barbour's talk on archaeology at the Confederate mass grave at Glorieta Pass; chapter reports; and UNM's Bruce Huckell's presentation on the Paleoindian Period in the Southwest.

LEGISLATION

Legislation that would significantly improve the way the preservation tax credit program works in New Mexico has been filed by State Sen. Clemente Sanchez, D-Grants. His bill would increase credits and extend the length of time the credit can be taken against state income taxes for residential and commercial properties. It is meant to especially encourage investment in historic commercial buildings through the state credit in Arts and Cultural Districts, MainStreet Districts and Frontier Communities. In some cases, commercial properties would be eligible for tax credits as high as \$330,000. The state would limit credits

issued in any given year to \$1.5 million. The credit would be refundable for the first time in its history or could be taken over a 10-year period versus the current five years. HPD is partnering with New Mexico MainStreet on updating the 27-year-old tax credit legislation. SHPO Jeff Pappas and HPD tax credit coordinator Harvey Kaplan are reviewing legislation.

HPD has reviewed approximately eight legislative proposals this session that would affect preservation in New Mexico, including a bill that would address current qualifications for establishing “traditional historic communities.”

STATE PLAN

Every five years, HPD must file a state plan with the National Park Service to preserve its eligibility for funding from the Historic Preservation Fund. The planning process began this week when SHPO Jeff Pappas called a meeting of staff including Pilar Cannizzaro, Barbara Zook, Derek Pierce, Nicole Thomas, Karla McWilliams, Steven Moffson and Tom Drake. The process is a long one, requiring input from the public, and taking that feedback to craft goals that affect preservation statewide. The plan cannot be focused entirely on SHPO and must address statewide preservation needs. Generating public interest in participating in the process has been challenging in the past and suggestions are welcome on how to achieve it. The committee discussed holding sessions and on the Plan and distributing surveys at conferences, and using Survey Monkey online. Pappas said HPD needs to develop a stronger public presence to help generate interest in the plan and preservation in general. The current plan, *Preserving the Enchantment: Sustaining New Mexico's Cultural Heritage*, expires in 2016.

COMING UP AT HPD

- The CPRC meets February 20, at 1 p.m., at the Udall Building on Museum Hill in Santa Fe.
- National Preservation Advocacy Week is March 1-4 in the nation's capital. Tom Drake and Lynniss Jack are preparing materials for SHPO Jeff Pappas when he and former New Mexico SHPO Katherine Slick meet with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation.
- National Preservation Institute sessions devoted to NEPA and the impacts of renewable energy development on historic sites will be held in Santa Fe, April 8. Details are on the HPD website.
- Heritage Preservation Award nominations are due March 12 and staff and a CPRC subcommittee will begin reviewing them shortly after. Awards will be finalized at the April 8 CPRC meeting.

— 30 —

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tom Drake, Public Relations
 New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
www.nmhistoricpreservation.org
 Department of Cultural Affairs
 (505) 827-4067
tom.drake@state.nm.us