



News Release

State of New Mexico
Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs
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State Seeks Preservation Award Nominations

Announcing Heritage Preservation Month in New Mexico —50th of National Historic Preservation Act

Santa Fe — The Cultural Properties Review Committee and the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs are seeking nominations for state preservation awards that will be presented in May during Heritage Preservation Month.

Heritage Preservation Month is held nationwide each year so communities can showcase how they are preserving historic places that matter to them. HPD and the Cultural Properties Review Committee facilitate preservation statewide and present awards to recognize achievements in architectural preservation, archaeology, publishing, and work by organizations and individuals who have made a difference saving part of their community's past.

“Our awards show that historic preservation is not exclusively the purview of professionals; it includes people with diverse backgrounds working to preserve buildings on main street in small town America, and volunteers helping to save archaeological sites that might reveal something unknown about our past, ” said Jeff Pappas, Ph.D., State Historic Preservation Officer and director of HPD. “The awards are about recognizing people interested in preserving the cultural heritage that gives their community its identity.”

The year 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, the most far-reaching preservation legislation ever enacted in the U.S. The Act codified the National Register of Historic Places, required federal agencies consider the impacts of new construction on historic sites, and provides for public comment before a site can be altered. HPD will build on the anniversary by making it theme for this year's Heritage Preservation Month.

HPD's 30th annual Preservation Month commemorative poster will interpret the theme, and be available to the public free of charge in April.

Award nominations must be received by March 15, although books and other publications to be considered for a Heritage Publication Award must be received by HPD on February 10 for early distribution among review committees. Persons nominating publications may also turn in their nominations on March 14. Nomination forms, categories and guidelines are available on HPD's website: www.nmhistoricpreservation.org. Nominations must include photographs and other information described on the website. Completed forms should be e-mailed to tom.drake@state.nm.us.

Organizations, individuals, governments, pueblos, museums, parks and other venues are encouraged to hold events highlighting their history during May. HPD is co-sponsoring an archaeology fair with the Bureau of Land Management on May 6 at Dripping Springs Natural Area outside Las Cruces. Information for historic home tours, archaeological hikes and day trips, lectures, film screenings, festivals and other related events will be published by HPD in the digital *Calendar of Events* on HPD's website and its Face Book page.

Event forms also are on the HPD's website and should be completed and emailed to historic architect Victoria Jacobson at vtjacobson@gmail.com. Event sponsors receive copies of a commemorative poster published by HPD to publicize their event.

Awards are signed by Governor Susana Martinez, CPRC Chairman Rick Hendricks, Ph.D; and Pappas. They will be presented at the 44th annual Heritage Preservation Awards ceremony in Santa Fe, in mid-May, time and place to be announced.

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