

The New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee
presents the

2023 Heritage Preservation Awards

May 19, 2023

2:00-5:00 p.m., St. Francis Auditorium
New Mexico Museum of Art, 107 W Palace Avenue, Santa Fe

- **Lifetime Achievement Award**

Malcolm Ebright. Malcolm Ebright is honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifelong dedication to the history of New Mexico and his expertise in land grant studies. In 1970, Malcom arrived in New Mexico from California, where he earned a degree in law. He put this degree to use by resolving land disputes and water claims in his home county of Mora. He gradually developed an expertise in the state's system of land grants. This led to his first book titled *Land Title Study*, which he coauthored in 1971, and which has become a landmark in the study of New Mexico land grants.

In his first years in New Mexico, Malcom fell in the love with the landscape and realized there was room for new scholarship. Between 1971 and 2019, he published two dozen books and articles, many with his writing partner Rick Hendricks, on the people, the land, and its resources. His most consequential books include: *Advocates for the Oppressed: Hispanos, Indians, and Genízaros*, and *Their Land in New Mexico* from 2014 and, with Rick Hendricks, *The Witches of Abiquiú: The Governor, the Priest, the Genízaro Indians, and the Devil* from 2006; He also wrote *Four Square Leagues: Pueblo Indian Land in New Mexico* from 2014; *Advocates for the Oppressed: Hispanos, Indians, and Genízaros*, and *Their Land in New Mexico*, also published in 2014; and *Pueblo Sovereignty: Indian Land and Water in New Mexico and Texas* from 2019. Between 1971 and 2019, Malcolm produced books and articles, gave lectures to the public, and served as an expert witness in cases involving water rights. Malcolm also became captivated by important figures in New Mexico history, including Governor Tomás Vélaz Cachupín and Pueblo Indian leader Pablo Abeita, which resulted in biographical publications.

Throughout most of 2016, Malcolm and staff from the Historic Preservation Division worked on nominating to the National Register the Guadalupita-Coyote Creek Rural Historic District. Through his work Malcolm developed an increased appreciation for how natural systems and topographic features shaped human activity. Malcolm observed that he most enjoyed the research and writing and less the many details required by the National Register. This historic district, which is nine-miles-long and includes more than 8,000 acres, is among the state's best documented examples of a rural historic district. This creek valley was Malcolm's home. "Once I saw this land," he said, "I knew it would be my home for the rest of my life."

Accepting the award for Malcolm Ebright is Rick Hendricks.

- **Individual Achievement Award**

Chad Rennaker, Rupal Engineer, and Ryan Whitt—El Vado Motel, Albuquerque. Chad, Rupal, and Ryan are honored for their rehabilitation of El Vado motel in Albuquerque. Chad arrived in New Mexico with the idea of rehabilitating projects in Albuquerque. He believed one could buy properties on Central Avenue at low-enough prices that they could be rehabilitated for new uses. In 2015, he purchased El Vado Motel from the City of Albuquerque. El Vado is located on Central Avenue, opposite the Albuquerque Aquarium and Botanic Gardens. The motel comprised two white-stucco room blocks with parking in the center. Built in 1937, the motel had fallen into disrepair. Chad saw El Vado as an opportunity rehabilitate a historic property and bring life to the building and a stretch of Central Avenue. He knew from experience that food halls were popular, and he believed that combining a food hall with guest rooms would attract customers and guests. Chad participated in the Federal Tax preservation incentives program and worked with Historic Preservation Staff to ensure the work followed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. This work included creating food stalls in former guest rooms, retaining guest rooms as overnight accommodations, and adding a room for large meetings. The former parking lot was rebuilt with a pool and a dining area with picnic tables. Chad has completed four projects in the city and is now developing the Imperial 400 motel on Central Avenue. Chad, who resides in Portland, stays at El Vado when visiting Albuquerque because, he says, "he feels like a kid traveling with his parents and seeing a vacancy sign. The warmth of the adobe walls and the vigas create a sense of history."

Accepting the award is Chad Rennaker, Rupal Engineer, and Ryan Whitt.

CPRC 2023 Heritage Preservation Awards Continued

- **Heritage Organization Award**

Nuevo Mexico Profundo—Dr. Frank Graziano, Susan Horn, Sana Morrow, and Pete Warzel. Nuevo Mexico Profundo is honored for its contributions in identifying, preserving, and providing public access to New Mexico’s historic churches. Nuevo Mexico Profundo was established by Rebecca Montoya, Pete Warzel, and Frank Graziano. The organization seeks to raise funds for historic church maintenance and restoration, to promote historic preservation, and to provide tours that offer cultural experiences in historic settings. Frank, the principal of the Nuevo Mexico Profundo, was born in New York and studied poetry before earning a degree in Hispanic and Latin American Studies. In 2003, he moved to New Mexico, where he enjoyed the Hispanic culture and the sense of place. He sums this up by explaining it as “like living abroad but at home.” In 2019, he completed the book, *Historic Churches of New Mexico Today*. The 2019 publication is based on Frank’s fieldwork, photographs, and his ability to connect the past with churches of today. The heart of the organization is its public tours to historic churches. Frank, who worked for years cultivating relationships at the churches, led the first outings to the Santuario de Chimayó, Córdova, Truchas, and Las Trampas. Today, tours include churches on the High Road to Taos, Mora County, along the Pecos River, and at the Zuni, Mescalero Apache, and Navajo reservations. These tours are significant because they allow guests to meet and chat with people intimately connected to the historic churches. Today, Nuevo Mexico Profundo is staffed by volunteers and overseen by a board that includes Frank Graziano, Susan Horn, Sana Morrow, and Pete Warzel.

Accepting the award is Susan Horn, Sana Morrow, and Pete Warzel.

- **Heritage Organization Award**

Nob Hill Neighborhood Association Inc., Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Nob Hill Neighborhood Association is honored for its efforts to preserve the neighborhood’s historic character. The Neighborhood Association developed strategies for volunteers to partner with planners, elected leaders, and neighbors to make historic preservation part of the mission of the neighborhood. Its members were instrumental in listing Monte Vista and College View Historic District in the National Register in 2001. Twenty years later, the neighborhood worked with architecture students at UNM to produce historic district nominations for the Granada Heights and Broadmoor sections of Nob Hill. Both were listed in 2022. When the first subdivision of Nob Hill turned 100 years old in 2016, the association spearheaded a celebration that included an oral history project, short films, and an “Insider’s Tour” of buildings. The neighborhood association sponsored annual architecture walks led by David J. Kammer and now Gary L. Eyster. Significantly, the neighborhood association has worked to educate the community about the Federal and State Tax Incentives Programs. These programs, administered by the Cultural Properties Review Committee, provide tax benefits to homeowners of listed properties who undertake home projects that meet preservation standards. To make this benefit available to more Nob Hill residents, the neighborhood association has sought to list more historic districts.

Accepting the award are President Jeff Hoehn, Vice President Lucille Torres Long, members Spencer Nelson, Dennis Trujillo, Beth Silbergleit, Jeanne Whitehouse, and Gary Eyster along with City Preservation Planner Leslie Naji and City Councilor Pat Davis.

- **Heritage Organization Award**

The Peñasco Valley Historical Preservation Society. The Peñasco Valley Historical Preservation Society is honored for its efforts to preserve the Peñasco High School in northern New Mexico. The Peñasco High School was built by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and opened in 1932. The Taos County School Board brought Dominican Sisters from Michigan to teach in Peñasco. The Peñasco High School is significant in education because the sisters provided students with a secular education from 1932 to 1948, when it was the only high school in southern Taos County. The long, one-story adobe school is significant in architecture because it maintains its Hispanic design, materials, and workmanship. The school closed in 1987, leaving a historical and cultural vacuum in the village. In 1997, members of the community engaged Cornerstones Community Partnerships of Santa Fe to produce a conditions assessment of the school. The Peñasco Valley Historical Preservation Society has also worked with students in the University of New Mexico, School of Architecture to produce schemes for future uses of the building. Last year, the community worked to list the school in the National Register of Historic Places. The group is currently engaged in fundraising to support the rehabilitation of the building. In 2017, former students united to prevent the demolition of Peñasco High School. The Historical Preservation Society believes that saving this legacy will inspire the community and provide a space to bring together the community. This effort coalesced into the Peñasco Valley Historical Preservation Society as a non-profit organization, which purchased the school and surrounding property. The Society’s vision statement is “Honor our history, preserve our legacy, embrace the future.”

Accepting this award is President of the Peñasco Valley Historical Preservation Society, Alfredo Romero.