



News Release

State of New Mexico

Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs

407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2013

CONTACT:

Tom Drake, 505-827-4067

Students Will Survey Historic Buildings at El Santuario de Chimayó

Santa Fe — Two University of New Mexico students and their professor will begin surveying the historic area around the Santuario de Chimayó next week, the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division announced Wednesday.

The work is one of the last stages in completing the Chimayó Cultural Preservation Planning Project and will involve photographing and surveying the exteriors of 40 buildings at El Potrero Plaza around the Santuario, a National Historic Landmark, to determine if the area could be designated a cultural landscape or historic district.

“This work was initiated through an HPD grant provided to the Chimayó Cultural Preservation Association,” said Dr. Jeff Pappas, State Historic Preservation Officer and Director of HPD. “The preservation plan identifies the area’s cultural resources and results directly from the enthusiasm of local residents to preserve their cultural heritage.”

The association hired Valdez & Associates, a consulting firm owned by preservationist and adjunct UNM Professor of Architecture and Planning Arnie Valdez. Valdez will work with two doctorate students from his Cultural Landscape Planning course to survey the area.

“It is important for the public to know that we are surveying about 40 buildings and structures so they are aware we are helping to determine to integrity of the El Potrero Plaza area,” Valdez said.

Survey and field documentation largely will be completed the week of September 16. Students will then record their information on HPD’s Historic Cultural Property Inventory forms, which help determine eligibility of buildings for listing in the State Register of Cultural Properties or the National Register of Historic Places. HPD awarded the CCPA a \$9,250 grant to complete the preservation plan and survey.

The CCPA is building an archive of historical photographs, documents and oral histories. It works to maintain historic buildings and identify cultural landscapes to increase awareness of local history and culture. The goal of the preservation plan is to protect historic buildings and landscapes, increasing public access to historic resources by documenting them, improve Santa Fe County development regulations to protect and enhance historic resources and increase community awareness of its cultural heritage.

If an historic district is established, many of the building owners within the district would be eligible for financial incentives such a preservation tax credits to rehabilitate and maintain their historic homes and buildings. The incentives encourage private rehabilitation of historic buildings.

—30—

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tom Drake, Public Relations
Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo St., Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 827-4067
tom.drake@state.nm.us
www.nmhistoricpreservation.org