



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
October 15, 2014

CONTACT:
Tom Drake, 505-827-4067

State Preservation Grants Generate \$1 Million in Activity

Santa Fe — More than \$1.1 million was invested into preserving New Mexico culture in 2014, spurred by a near record number of grants awarded by the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs.

HPD announced today that work was completed in September on 16 projects statewide through \$304,625 in grants issued by the division earlier this year. Communities invested another \$735,375 in matching funds and labor to complete projects as diverse as stabilizing 1,000-year-old ruins associated with Chaco Culture, rebuilding Santo Domingo Trading Post's 1880 warehouse façade and laying groundwork to preserve a five-mile section of Raton Pass.

In addition, Silver City residents will have a downtown movie theater for the first time in more than 10 years, and Lordsburg completed a cultural resource survey aimed at establishing the first historic district in Hidalgo County.

"The amount of money we were able to award through our grants program for local preservation initiatives this year was three times what we've been able to provide during any of the last ten years," said Karla McWilliams, NMHPD grants and Certified Local Government coordinator. "It also was the first time in more than 30 years that we awarded grants for bricks-and-mortar preservation."

HPD grants are funded annually by the Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service. NPS attaches spending deadlines to the funding. Post-Recession staff reductions in state government resulted in extra funds that State Historic Preservation Officer Jeff Pappas decided to use for an expanded grant program.

NPS recommended HPD consider funding bricks-and-mortar projects, and the planning grants the division has awarded for years. Most grants for construction on cultural properties disappeared in

the 1980s. HPD looks forward to announcing a new round of grants for projects to be completed in 2015.

Here is a summary of grants awarded by geographic area of the state.

Northwestern New Mexico:

- Twenty-six stone and masonry walls at **Salmon Ruins**, a Chacoan outlier dating from the 11th century, were documented and stabilized with this bricks-and-mortar grant. Crews worked in extreme heat, repointing and rebuilding walls in five different masonry types. HPD and Salmon Ruins have partnered on grant projects dating back to the 1970s. The Ruins' executive director, Larry Baker, said many repairs completed with the 2014 grant have been needed since major excavation work in the 1970s. HPD grant: \$26,400; Project: \$55,320.
- New Mexico State Monuments organized and presented an education and outreach program on 14th Century Gisewa Pueblo, now the **Jemez Historic Site**. Six tribal members from Jemez Pueblo were selected for the Elders in Residence Program. A final report was submitted to HPD as part of the program. HPD grant: \$9,000; Project \$18,863.
- The **Grants** Milan Civil Aeronautics Authority Flight Service Station was built in 1953 and provided civil navigation assistance for 20 years. The Cibola County Historical Society completed a National Register of Historic Places nomination of the facility, which will reopen as a museum and heritage tourism destination. The facility bridged the era between visual navigation used in the 1920s and 1930s and today's radar traffic control systems. HPD grant: \$2,860; Project: \$4,810.

Northcentral New Mexico:

- Partially destroyed by a fire shortly after it was listed in the National Register in 1998, the façade of the **Santo Domingo Trading Post** was restored by a pueblo contractor who worked with volunteers from the pueblo to complete the project. Vigas and other materials were donated to reconstruct the trading post's famous façade as it was viewed by U.S. presidents, U.S. Route 66 travelers and railroad passengers. HPD bricks-and-mortar grant: \$41,748; Project: \$68,075.
- A rare opportunity was taken to assess construction dates of the **Santa Ana de Tamaya Mission Church** outside of Albuquerque in a dendrochronological study by Thomas Windes, of Dusty Resources, Inc, funded by a grant. Samples of wood primarily from vigas used to build the church—combined with early Spanish accounts and Native oral histories—helped determine that three churches have stood on the site, including one destroyed during the 1680 Pueblo Revolt. A small chapel replaced it and in 1750 the present church was built around it. Wood samples were taken during a Heritage Preservation Award-winning restoration in 2012. HPD grant: \$6,928; Project: \$13,563.
- **Sena Plaza** was a large hacienda dating to the 1860s located near Santa Fe Plaza. It grew from a small adobe home to more than 30 rooms. Today a restaurant occupies part of the former hacienda, along with many storefronts and a small office once associated with the Manhattan Project. Although Sena Plaza is part of the Santa Fe Historic District, its remarkable history was not thoroughly documented in the National Register. Historian Catherine Colby completed a Register nomination of the complex. HPD grant: \$7,204; Project: \$11,918.

- Cornerstones Community Partnerships, of **Santa Fe**, developed an **Adobe Youth Curriculum** to raise awareness of the importance of preserving earthen architecture. The curriculum teaches skills for preserving adobe architecture. Cornerstones has tested the curriculum in public schools and other educational venues. \$30,000. HPD grant. Total project \$52,734.
- The nonprofit Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project prepared a curriculum used in a classroom in late September about Spanish Colonial petroglyphs found in northern New Mexico at the petroglyph site near **Velarde**. In contrast to Native American petroglyphs, students studied rock art symbolizing Christianity and Spanish royalty. HPD grant: \$13,699; Project: \$22,831.
- The only surviving grist mill in **Taos** was built and operated in the mid-1800s. A grant-funded structural assessment by Druc Engineering for the Taos County Historical Society found the historic Duran Molino mill sound. TCHS also put an emergency roof on the structure. Eventually the mill will be open to the public, according to project lead Corky Hawk. HPD grant: \$4,970; Project: \$8,970.

Northeastern New Mexico:

- The Pritzlaff Ranch outside **Las Vegas** is perhaps most notable for a series of historic murals inside a bunkhouse painted by one of New Mexico's major twentieth-century Native American artists. Painted by MaPeWi, of Zia Pueblo, the murals were documented and a tribal roundtable and symposium held to develop ways to preserve them. The grant, awarded to the Friends of the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge, also funded documentation of buildings on the 3,200 acre cattle ranch. HPD grant: \$40,137; Project: \$69,019.
- The original **Raton Pass** was a harrowing ride for early motorists who drove the steep and winding descent from Colorado into New Mexico. It is believed the first automobile ever driven into the state came through the pass. A five-mile stretch of this roadway—now largely unused — was documented for a National Register nomination highlighting early automobile travel in the state by John Murphey, of Santa Fe-based First Light Consulting. HPD grant: \$4,410; Project: \$8,130.

Southwestern New Mexico:

- For several years, **Silver City** residents had to drive to Deming to go to the movies. Light Hall on the Western New Mexico University campus recently started showing films and the Silco Theater will soon follow. A bricks-and-mortar grant funded rehabilitation of the theater entrance and storefront façades original to the 1923 building. The Silver City MainStreet Project received the HPD grant of \$57,979 for work on the \$96,633 project.
- **Lordsburg** owes its origins to the Southern Pacific Railroad. But the town made a name for itself as the junction of U.S Highways 70 and 80 when it became the biggest food and lodging stop between Arizona and Texas in the middle of the twentieth century. Buildings from Lordsburg's heyday still stand along a three-block stretch of East Motel Drive and were surveyed by the Hidalgo County Heritage Society in anticipation of establishing a historic district in the small town. HPD grant: \$4,580; Project: \$7,955.

- The Amador Hotel Foundation submitted a draft National Register nomination of the hotel built in 1850 as a residence that became a rooming house. In 1885 a second story, balcony and lobby were added and through much of the twentieth century the hotel was an essential downtown **Las Cruces** gathering place. The hotel closed, became a bank and the foundation plans to convert it into a museum. It is one of the city's few remaining buildings from the period. Grant: \$3,720; Project: \$6,200.
- And HPD grant funded part of a multi-year research and educational project focusing on interpretation and conservation of Cañada Alamosa, an important watershed north of **Elephant Butte Lake**. Human Systems Research, Inc. completed multiple wildlife studies and drafted a nomination highlighting the history of Victorio, Pinnacle, Montoya Site and Montoya Butte Site. HPD grant: \$35,940; Project: \$59,900

Southeastern & Northcentral New Mexico:

- Folsom Man Site is a National Historic Landmark commemorated for establishing the presence of humans in the Americas more than 10,000 years ago. It was listed in the National Register in 1966 and was the ninth New Mexico site included in the registry. An updated NHL nomination was submitted as one component of a grant that also funded updating the National Register listing of the Kuapa Ruin Site. Near **Cochiti**, Kuapa was a large pueblo occupied in the 12th and 13th centuries that extended about one mile along a mesa top in the Rio Grande Valley. TAMARCH CRM Services received a \$15,048 HPD grant for the \$25,111 project.

— 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