



# News Release

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State of New Mexico  
**Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs**  
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:**  
Tom Drake, 505-827-4067

## **Nationally Known New Mexico Artists Homes and Studios Designated Historic**

**Santa Fe** — The homes and studios of three nationally known artists who lived and created their most significant works in Lincoln County, New Mexico, were listed in the State Register of Cultural Properties, the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division announced today.

Luis Jimenez is considered one of the leading figures of twentieth-century American art for uniquely blending Chicano sensibilities with a keen political and social awareness in his work. His home and studio—a 1902 adobe school house and New Deal-era gymnasium he and his wife Susan converted into their home—and a separate property known as the Apple Shed where he applied finishes to his monumental public art were listed in the State Register and forwarded for consideration in the National Register of Historic Places.

The committee at the same October 17 meeting listed the home and studios of Peter and Henriette Wyeth Hurd in San Patricio, also in Lincoln County's Hondo Valley. The couple lived in and painted works now hung in galleries nationwide at the hacienda they expanded between 1938 and 1942 and continued living in until Peter's death in 1984 and Henriette's passing in 1997.

"New Mexico has always been a place where artists have come for its scenic beauty and the quality of light," said Steven Moffson, State and National register coordinator for HPD.

The Georgia O'Keeffe Home and Studio, in Abiquiu, a National Historic Landmark, and the Eanger Irving House and Studio and Joseph Henry Sharpe Studio, in Taos, are among other artists properties listed in the State and National registers.

"It is important in a state known internationally for its art and the many artists who have lived here that we recognize them in the State and National registers for their significant contributions to the state's culture and history," said Jeff Pappas, State Historic Preservation Officer and director of HPD.

The registers are the states and the nation's lists of cultural properties and resources considered worthy of historic preservation.

Jimenez was born in El Paso, Texas. Although primarily known for his large polychrome and fiberglass sculptures, he was an accomplished draftsman and taught art at universities in Arizona and Texas. He is credited with opening doors for other Mexican-American artists.

Jimenez and his wife purchased the adobe school and gymnasium in scenic Hondo Valley in 1985. They adapted it to raising a family and establishing a studio that Jimenez worked in until his death in 2006 when a portion of his largest piece, "Blue Mustang," fell and severed an artery in his leg.

"We have preserved a lot of the studio as is ... so people will understand the influence of Hondo Valley, which gave him the space to think," said Susan Jimenez, who attended the meeting and has worked to preserve her late husband's legacy.

He was considered "a giant in the Hispanic community," said CPRC member Reginald Richey, an architect in Lincoln County who knew Jimenez.

The Luis A. and Susan B. Jimenez House and Studios nomination was written by Moffson and HPD intern Richard Juliani.

Hurd was born in Roswell and attended the New Mexico Military Institute and West Point, in New York. He studied under illustrator N.C. Wyeth and married Wyeth's daughter Henriette in 1929. In New Mexico, he painted murals during the Great Depression, including ones at the Alamogordo post office and Artesia Public Library. His American Southwest landscapes and images of World War II soldiers—many appeared in *Life* magazine—were completed at the 40-acre ranch.

In 1966, Hurd painted the White House portrait of President Lyndon B. Johnson, primarily from photographs at their New Mexico hacienda when Johnson would allow only two 15-minute sittings. Johnson described the portrait as the "ugliest thing I ever saw," which led to the quip "artists should be seen around the White House, but not Hurd." The episode gave Hurd notoriety, and the painting now hangs in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Henriette was a child prodigy known for her portraits and still-life paintings. Her portrait of her brother, Andrew Wyeth, appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine. Considered by art scholars to be one of the great women painters of the twentieth century, she painted the official White House portrait of former first lady Pat Nixon

The Peter Hurd and Henriette Wyeth Hurd House and Studios nomination was written by New Mexico State University student Brittany Porter and her professor, Beth O'Leary, Ph.D. O'Leary, a former CPRC member, helped Porter complete the nomination after she retired from the school's Anthropology Department in July. She is working on additional nominations with former students. The nomination also was forwarded by the committee for consideration in the National Register.

**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](mailto:tom.drake@state.nm.us)  
[www.nmhistoricpreservation.org](http://www.nmhistoricpreservation.org)