Manhattan Project Site Restored

It is often the threat of demolition and the loss of a piece of our history that build the momentum to stop the wrecking ball, and transform a preservation ideal into reality.

Nine years ago, the very buildings that could be called the birthplace of the Atomic Age were put on a list to be considered for demolition and decontamination by the U.S. Department of Energy. They included the High Bay building at V-Site, whose exemplary restoration was celebrated at a dedication ceremony in October; and the Gun Site, the next project in a multiyear plan by Los Alamos National Laboratory to restore Manhattan Project sites integral to the development of the atomic bomb, and make that once-secretive history better known to the public.

The Atomic Heritage Foundation credits LANL with stopping the bulldozers, but then finding itself in a position of having no funds to commit to a preservation project that presented the challenges of working in a high-explosives site surrounded by a still very active laboratory that by its nature must conduct much of its work off-limits to the general public. The notion of preserving buildings that most would describe as modest at best—not the monumental architecture commonly associated with plans to save a grand past—required education, communication and outreach. And, a final challenge; all but the High Bay building at V-Site were destroyed in the 2000 Cerro Grande forest fire after initial concepts were developed to restore them, and after the lab applied for a grant to save them.

HPD's involvement began in 1997 when the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation convened a meeting in Santa Fe that resulted in a tour of the buildings with preservationists eyeing several as eligible for National Historic Landmark status. HPD became actively involved in 2000 upon notification by the National Park Service that a $700,000 Save America's Treasures grant had been approved for a restoration.

**Early Planning**

In November 1998, the Energy Department recognized the value of saving the buildings and encouraged LANL to apply for a grant. Manhattan Project resources at Los Alamos made the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance’s Most Endangered list the following year, which is also when the “Millennium Grant”—named for a White House initiative to preserve properties key to the 20th Century—was awarded. It subsequently became one of the first grants awarded under the renamed Save America’s Treasures program in 1999.
Preservationists Build from the National Historic Preservation Act and 1906 Antiquities Act

— Katherine Slick, Director

The year 2006 provided the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the anniversaries of pivotal preservation legislation. Significant losses of cultural resources at places such as Chaco Canyon, Bandelier, Pecos and El Morro lead to the 1906 passage of the Antiquities Act in which Congress endorsed the concept that our heritage belongs to all and that stewardship of our heritage benefits the country. The Act created the national monument program, which marked the first time the U.S. officially preserved cultural landscapes, archaeological sites and works left behind by humankind. The second monument declared was El Morro National Monument in New Mexico.

Sixty years later the National Historic Preservation Act was enacted, creating a role for the states, and encouraging local preservation while expanding the responsibility of federal actions beyond federally managed lands. NHPA lays out the partnership between federal, tribal and state governments by establishing the State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, the National Register of Historic Places, Certified Local Governments and grants.

Preservation is a democratic process. When we recognize our interdependence, and preservation standards can be applied broadly or in the most localized of means, the whole is much more successful. Since 1966, state and local preservation laws enacted in New Mexico further the goals of protecting our heritage for future generations and tell our distinct history as community, state and nation. NHPA prompted states to enact their own preservation statutes and create state review boards—the Cultural Properties Review Committee in New Mexico—and programs such as our State Cultural Property Tax Credit, Preservation Loan Fund and state grants. Governor Bill Richardson in the proposed FY08 budget has recommended establishing the grant program with $50,000 in start-up funds to be allocated to five communities each year.

HPD is required by federal and state laws to review thousands of projects that affect the oil-and-gas industry, agriculture and road building in New Mexico. Without timely reviews, work would not progress on a variety of projects crucial to the state’s economy. Reviews often use HPD’s New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System electronic database which improves efficiency.

In 2007, we celebrate the stewardship of New Mexico’s three World Heritage Sites: Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Carlsbad Caverns and Taos Pueblo. These places possess natural and cultural values of such importance they are recognized by the peoples of the world. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization maintains a list of 830 WHLs. UNESCO encourages the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage. HPD has been collaborating with El Instituto Nacional de Herencia y Artes of Mexico, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service on a nomination of El Camino Real to the World Heritage Indicative List.

A guiding NHPA principle is “the preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations.” We hope as you read the Annual Report, you will develop a picture of the array of activities that involve our office and our partners in New Mexico as we care for our vital legacy.
Committee Expands Membership and Its Role

FY06 was the year the Cultural Properties Review Committee expanded its statutory membership to include a representative of a New Mexico Indian tribe and a citizen member. The Legislature passed and Governor Richardson signed the amendment to facilitate broader representation on the HPD policy-and-oversight committee, which has long included members chosen for their backgrounds in archaeology, prehistoric archaeology, history, architecture, and historic architecture.

The committee also underwent significant changes in its membership, and now is composed of nine individuals. Dr. Estevan Rael-Galvez, as state historian, serves by statute and is the only member not appointed by the governor. He has been chairman of the committee for four years. Dr. Beth O’Leary is an anthropology professor at New Mexico State University and has served as secretary for four years. Dr. Signa Larralde is an archaeologist with the Bureau of Land Management. Craig Hoopes is an architect in Santa Fe. Dr. Phillip Shelley is an anthropology professor at Eastern New Mexico University. Mark Mitchell is the former governor of Tesuque Pueblo, and the first tribal member. Clarence Fielder is a history instructor at NMSU. Mac Watson is a conservator in Santa Fe. Nancy Meem-Wirth is the citizen member of the committee.

This last year, the CPRC stepped into the role of facilitator and into the media spotlight in complex and controversial issues. It took a lead role in deciding what would be needed for excavations to proceed at the site of a new Civic Center in Santa Fe, and for an extension of Paseo del Norte through a State Register historic district. In the case of the planned civic center, the CPRC’s insistence that tribal consultation be adhered to produced a model agreement between Tesuque Pueblo and the City of Santa Fe.

Throughout the Annual Report, the reader will find the CPRC involved in many facets of HPD activity, including decisions on Register listings, tax credits, archaeological permits and Heritage Preservation Awards.

Manhattan Project

Within months, most of the complex of buildings planned for restoration at V-Site was destroyed in the Cerro Grande fire, leaving only concrete pads and metal girders used to hoist materials for bomb assembly.

Every SAT project in New Mexico must be reviewed by HPD as part of the requirements of the grant. V-Site Review began in 2001, just months after the fire when we began consulting in formal meetings with the lab, ACHP and DOE to discuss a path forward after the fire.

The site was challenging to say the least. The High Bay building was the only V-Site structure that survived the fire, mostly because of its asbestos shingles which saved it from the flames, although earlier they were deemed a contaminant and cause for demolition. The building was built into a berm as a precaution in the event of an explosion, but the berm had collapsed the rear wall of the building, partially filling it with dirt. A similar building some 100 yards away was burnt to the ground, leaving only a metal hoisting mechanism standing, and a haphazard network of heating pipes that once connected it to High Bay.

V-Site, and the High Bay building in particular, is where the race to building the atomic bomb was won with completion of Fat Man, the nickname of the bomb detonated over Nagasaki. It took 27 months to complete the Manhattan Project, but quite a bit longer than that to preserve its legacy.

After four long years, the required dollar-for-dollar match was found and a restoration plan developed that addressed the devastation of the fire. The lab worked closely with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Atomic Heritage Foundation. Eventually, a major restoration at the Los Alamos Boys Ranch by the county led to the right formula, and even made it possible to free up $50,000 to restore the Oppenheimer cabin, originally the headmaster’s house at the boy’s school commandeered by the U.S. government for the Manhattan Project.

Not only must a restoration involving SAT funds meet the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation, but See Manhattan Project page 15...
Community Partnerships

Rural and Small-town Life Captured in Register Listings

Small Town Movie Theaters

Most of them are individually owned or family run out of love for a small-town tradition that has all but died in most New Mexico communities. Some are empty, but all remain crowning architectural achievements of their downtowns and reminders of a time when very little money bought a night of entertainment and camaraderie in small-town America.

The CPRC established the significance of small-town theaters in a multiple nomination of six historic theaters in Clayton, Raton, Clovis, Tucumcari and Lovington. Built between 1916 and 1948, the theaters are as disparate as the El Raton with its Gothic Revival-inspired facade and atmospheric ceiling to the stripped-down modernism of Lovington’s Lea Theater with its tile-and glass, stand-alone ticket booth beneath a deeply recessed entrance.

The Lyceum and State theaters in Clovis, the Luna in Clayton and the Odeon in Tucumcari rounded out a nomination that snappéd a picture of small-town movie-going from its heyday to current and successful attempts to rehabilitate the theaters and bring people back downtown.

Glenrio National Historic District

Settled in 1890, Glenrio straddles the New Mexico and Texas state lines along the historic roadbed of Route 66. Interstate 40, completed in the area in 1975, realigned the highway north of Glenrio. Trains stopped coming years before and the interstate bypassed Glenrio entirely, resulting in a gradual closing of all businesses along Route 66. With the rapid loss of commerce most buildings were abandoned and several demolished. Today, only a handful of residents remain in Glenrio. Most buildings in the historic district are vacant Route 66 businesses that continue across the border, making it the first joint historic district between the two states.

Trading Posts

Although the traditional trading posts that first welcomed travellers and motorists in New Mexico have largely vanished, a few remain. One still doing business much as it did in 1920 when it first opened is Cousins Bros. Trading Post, still in its plain stone, adobe and concrete block building.

Pioneer trader Charles Craig Cousins opened the business, which soon became the commercial hub of Chi Chil Tah, where customers could barter for goods and to this day still can. The business is run by Cousin's granddaughter and great-granddaughter who have carried it into the 21st century, offering a delicatessen and coin-operated laundry. Cousins remains the commercial hub of the tiny town located south of Gallup.

Completely transformed is the late Claude Morrison Bowlin’s idea of a trading post. Current-day motorists recognize the name from the dozens of billboards found on interstates 25 and 40 advertising “hillbilly sculpture,” “Baja jackets.” “Minnetonka moccasins,” before they arrive at a warehouse-sized building, “travel center.” But at one time Bowlin’s Old Crater Trading Post thrived out of quaint log-built buildings along Route 66. Today, the concrete-block building he built during an expansion is all that remains, empty, along a stretch of the Mother Road west of Bluewater. Passersby still can make out the faded, once eye-catching murals painted on the exterior by Juarez, Mexico, artist Conrad Barrio.

Both trading posts were listed in the State and National registers.
Tijeras Pueblo National Archaeological Site

When mysteriously thousands of people migrated from the highly-developed, Chacoan culture pueblo cities of the Four Corners region, Tijeras Canyon was one of the chosen destinations for a new life.

Situated 15 miles east of present-day Albuquerque and sandwiched between the Sandia and Manzanita mountains, Tijeras Pueblo is a rare example of a Classic Period settlement from the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries. The architecture and layout of the village are considered pure—uncompromised by development from periods after it was abandoned, including the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors. To this day it can be interpreted by the modern-day visitor.

Tijeras Pueblo is one of the few Classic Period sites in New Mexico that had no significant post-Classic occupation, and, as such, is an uncontaminated example of Early Classic Period architecture with the organization of the village intact.

Recently honored with a listing in the National Register of Historic Places, Tijeras Pueblo is considered by the National Park Service to be of the highest level of national significance to our understanding of prehistory in the United States.

Bernard J. Beimer Residence

The Bernard J. Beimer House in Taos represents a variation on the distinctive characteristics of a German tradition of construction that is rare in New Mexico, and was seldom employed in German-American communities in other states.

Built ca. 1920, Beimer adapted the ancient fachwerk technique by using materials of the Southwest. The house was built using upright 2 x 6 frame construction and adobe blocks filled in the spaces between the supports. The unusual construction mixes practices of the southwest with a traditional German technique making it a rarity and qualifying it for both the State and National registers. The side-gabled roof is unusual in Taos. The quality of construction, and the scale of the front yard lined by mature trees also distinguish the property.

Beimer was constable in Taos. He staged elaborate marionette shows in the attic of the home, inviting the public. Platforms in the basement are thought to be his stages and evidence of a pulley system for the puppets and curtains still can be seen.

Pino Family Hispanic Homestead

Situated on a wide plain below dramatic Carrizo Peak, the Pino Family Hispanic Homestead sits on three acres of an approximately 4,000-acre ranch eight miles east of Carrizozo. The immediate homestead contains a jacal-built house, a barn, a corral and a hand-dug well. Presciliano Pino homesteaded the site in 1906 and his descendants expanded the acreage to the ranch it is today. The homestead was listed in the State Register.

Additional Register Listings in FY06

Los Alamos Addition State Register District, Albuquerque, 1937–1962
Commercial Hotel, Lovington,
Mathew Elmore Sewalt House, Lovington,
New Mexico Madonna of the Trail, Albuquerque,
James J. Cassidy House, Mora
Huning Highlands Conoco Service Station, Albuquerque
Cactus Motor Lodge, Tucumcari
Heritage Preservation Month Involves 50 Communities

PD celebrated the centennial of the 1906 Antiquities Act and the fortieth anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act in FY06. These two bodies of law form the legal framework for preservation in New Mexico and the United States.

Heritage Preservation Month was the centerpiece of HPD’s celebration with the poster depicting El Morro National Monument, the second monument ever declared under the 1906 Act. Petroglyphs and signatures from El Morro’s famed Inscription Rock frame a 1929 photograph of the monument. Posters became prizes in contests at various visitors’ centers and other locations, a framed copy was displayed at El Morro where hundreds of posters were given away, and for the third year the Albuquerque Isotopes provided HPD a corporate sponsorship of their May 4 winning game against Omaha where 2,000 copies were given to school children. Albuquerque Academy art students took a sketching trip to the Valencia County monument after viewing the poster. The division was honored that 26 individuals, businesses, agencies and organizations chose to sponsor it.

HPD’s annual poster is funded entirely through sponsorships.

Please join HPD in 2007 in celebrating the stewardship of New Mexico’s three World Heritage Sites: Chaco Canyon National Historic Park, Carlsbad Caverns and Taos Pueblo.

Travis Nelson and Jenny Vincent


Dr. Edward Staski: For dedicated research and outreach on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro.
Ortiz de Villagrá Compound: For preserving a Santa Fe tradition, the family compound.
School of American Research: For nearly 100 years of providing a dynamic educational and research institution focused globally and on the American Southwest.
New Mexico Jewish Pioneer Video Project: For extensive documentation and a multi-media publication of the history of Jewish pioneers in New Mexico.
Amy Biel High School: For organizing and designing the perfect fit of an enlightened educational program into Albuquerque’s historic federal courthouse.
City of Alamogordo: For exemplary recovery of critical archaeological resources from a Jornada Mogollon Village.
Ronald Fields: For his enthusiasm and boundless energy in sharing his expertise with the public.
Northwest New Mexico Site Stewards Program: For engaging hundreds of volunteer citizens in historic preservation while establishing the state’s premier site steward program.
U.S. Courthouse Project, Santa Fe: For Tesuque Pueblo and the U.S. General Services model tribal consultation during a construction project.
Dr. Scott Rushforth: For documenting Chiricahua Prisoners of War, and preserving and recording the language of the Mescalero Apache.
Dr. John Kessel: For outstanding research and extensive publication of New Mexico’s Spanish Colonial History.
Ms. Travis Nelson: Lifetime Achievement for preserving historic structures that form the heart of Nara Visa.
Jenny Vincent: Lifetime Achievement for preserving cultural heritage in northern New Mexico through music and activism.
SiteWatch Chapters Form Across New Mexico

SiteWatch participation jumped nine fold in FY06, resulting in a chapter in nearly every part of the state.

Renewed interest in SiteWatch began last fall when HPD hosted a SiteWatch partners meeting to discuss an assessment completed over the previous summer. Thirty people took part, including representatives of federal, state and local agencies; associations such as the Archaeological Society of New Mexico and New Mexico Archaeological Council; SiteWatch chapters; and the independent site-steward programs in New Mexico. Their consensus: HPD’s worthy program needed to grow from its two active chapters at Chaco Culture National Historic Park and Silver City so cultural resources could be monitored in a much broader swath across the state.

Within weeks, new stewards trained for the Silver City chapter, and an entirely new chapter formed in Los Alamos to cover the Jemez Mountains area. To build program identity, HPD developed a new training handbook, and designed and issued official identification cards. SiteWatch caps and t-shirts were created and given to stewards as rewards for hours of service in a funding partnership with Bandelier National Monument.

HPD in early January moved the program from its Services Bureau to Education and Communication in recognition of SiteWatch’s strong potential for community education. The acting coordinator was made permanent, and renewed emphasis was placed on interagency partnerships while building new ones with community-based organizations. An advisory council of program partners with charter memberships was developed, and a first meeting held in early FY07.

SiteWatch grew rapidly over winter and spring. Two chapters and 20 stewards blossomed to nine chapters covering the northwest, central, north central and southern parts of the state. And, 186 “card-carrying” stewards monitor, protect and file regular reports on the status of archaeological sites, petroglyphs and cultural resources under their jurisdiction.

The benefits are readily apparent. The Chaco chapter caught red-handed, a group of youths vandalizing petroglyphs, an act that lead to convictions and fines of $2,000. Hundreds of volunteers statewide are engaged in protecting irreplaceable pieces of New Mexico’s history. SiteWatch from its early years to its recent, rapid growth has proved itself a program worth having around.

Historic Marker Initiative Sparks Community Interest

The New Mexico Historic Women Markers Initiative launched by the Legislature in FY06 sought to remedy the fact that not one of the state’s 500 Official and Scenic Historic Markers has a woman as its central subject.

A selection committee led by Pat French, Beverly Duran and Alexis Girard formed after legislation passed that named HPD and New Mexico Department of Transportation as supporting agencies. HPD and DOT have long partnered on the marker program, with HPD researching and seeking nominations and DOT building and erecting the signs that dot New Mexico roadways with brief histories and maps of local events.

The selection committee sought to put up one sign in each of the state’s 33 counties and 21 more for each pueblo and Indian tribe with the qualification that all nominees were deceased women who had contributed to New Mexico history. The public was intrigued, and dozens of nominations poured in. The committee and the Cultural Properties Review Committee have approved the subjects of eight nominations to date. Additional nominations are being further researched and new ones continue to arrive.

Nominations have included groups of women associated with the Santa Fe Trail and a successful mining strike in the Silver City area. Individual nominations also have been received, such as that of country music’s “first rhinestone cowgirl,” Louise Massey Mabie, of Hondo Valley, and the late columnist Dr. Marjorie Bell Chambers, of Los Alamos, who advised five U.S. presidents on women’s issues.

The marker program began in 1936 as an effort to boost tourism among early motorists. HPD and the CPRC are responsible for text as it appears on the markers. In FY06, 18 markers were built and put up for the first time, or text was revised for existing markers to include new information. Outside of the women's initiative, HPD generally receives 10 nominations for new markers each year.
HPD Programs Are Used In

Program Map shows HPD reviewed 4,395 projects initiated by industry, government, the military, schools and local businesses in FY06 under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act. The figure is projected to jump dramatically in the next years, especially in the northwestern and southeastern parts of the state, because of stepped up oil-and-gas exploration.

Work on State and National Register listings, site visits for financial programs, Heritage Preservation Month activities and additional outreach round out HPD’s involvement in local preservation. Work at ARMS related to the 447,910 acres of land surveyed and entered into our electronic database also is shown on the Program Map.
Every County of the State

Financial Map shows where HPD provided financial incentives or funds for communities. Tax credit and loan projects leverage as much as five times the amount of the actual loan or credit in community spending. Grants frequently are used in conjunction with other funds to complete projects.

HPD’s annual budget of $2.1 million is comprised of $755,000 in state funds and $1.27 million in other agency funds. The division forges new partnerships with businesses, homeowners, individuals and government each year. The $773,727 HPD issued in tax credits, loans and grants leveraged more than $3.2 million in local preservation work statewide.
Community Partnerships

Archaeology Fair Visits Artesia

The Oil Patch was the destination of the twelfth New Mexico Archaeology Fair, HPD’s annual traveling celebration of human history, culture and historic preservation.

Co-sponsor Yates Petroleum, Corp., a major Heritage Preservation Month and fair sponsor in FY06, was joined by Artesia MainStreet, Inc., Artesia Historical Museum and Arts Center, the Greater Artesia Chamber of Commerce, and the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance in helping HPD coordinate the fair.

Eighteen federal and state agencies and private archaeological firms traveled from across the state and Panhandle, Texas, to join HPD archaeologists and preservation staff in presenting the fair November 4–5, 2005. Set under trees in Central Park, the fair coincided with Artesia’s Bulldog Hot-Air Balloon Rally.

The fair’s theme, “Artesia Century After Century,” who chosen to recognize the town’s centennial and emphasize what has been learned—and remains to be learned—about the past in southeastern New Mexico and adjacent Texas.

Archaeology Fair’s traditional exhibits and demonstrations such as atlatl spear-throwing, chopping tree trunks with stone axes, yarn dying and pottery firing, were enhanced with flintknapping demonstrations, live hurdy-gurdy and accordion music, adobe brick making, blacksmithing and a remote, live broadcast by radio station KSVP–FM/KTZA–AM. More than 400 elementary school children attended the fair Friday afternoon as part of school outings, and many returned with their parents the next day bringing total attendance to over 1,000.

HPD Grants Help Build Community Knowledge

HPD grants support preservation at the local level. They often fund research that reveals more of New Mexico’s past, not only building and preserving community identity, but enabling HPD to further its mission of inventorying and protecting more cultural resources.

In FY 06, HPD’s Small Grants program distributed $34,649 for five projects. They were as varied as providing protection for those who have gone before us to celebrating the oil-boon history of Hobbs, which went on to successfully nominate its downtown historic district to the State Register.

HPD grants generally range from $4,000 to $7,500, and often are used to kickstart larger projects, providing the nucleus of funding for research and planning. HPD grants have played roles in documentaries, funded archaeological research and funded the development of planning documents for rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings.

Grant monies HPD receives from the federal Historic Preservation Fund also help facilitate the only statewide historic preservation conference in New Mexico. Sponsored by New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance, the 2007 conference will be held on the New Mexico Military Institute campus, much of which lies in a National Register district. The conference runs March 28–30, and includes educational sessions, tours, and an awards ceremony. Plenary sessions will be held in the 1941 Pearson Auditorium, where graduates Conrad Hilton, Pulitzer Prize Winner Paul Horgan, and CNN anchor Chuck Roberts have spoken to the Corps of Cadets.

Former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall will present the inaugural Steward Udall Cultural Landscape Preservation Award, and NMNI graduate Sam Donaldson will deliver the keynote address, which Udall provided at the 2006 Gallup conference.

The annual event offers a rich educational experience and opportunities to share issues and tactics with colleagues from across the state, and a chance to bring new knowledge, tools, contacts and inspiration back home.

Registration and conference brochure are available at www.nmheritage.org.

**FY06 Grants**

**ARROYO HONDO PUEBLO NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION**

Archaeological Conservancy, $4,658
Santa Fe County

**FT. STANTON STABLES PRESERVATION PROJECT**

Cornerstones Community Partnerships, $7,500
Lincoln County

**HOBBS DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT STATE REGISTER NOMINATION**

MainStreet Hobbs, $7,500
Lea County

**NM CEMETERY/BURIAL GROUNDS DATABASE**

Ebert & Associates, $7,491
Statewide

**OHKAY OWINGE GIS PUEBLO SURVEY**

Ohkay Owinge, $7,500
Rio Arriba County

New Mexico ranch owner Sam Donaldson, of ABC News, will keynote the Thursday evening awards event.

ABC News photo
Federal Partnerships

Oil & Gas Exploration on Cultural Lands

Rapid growth in oil-and-gas exploration in southeastern and northwestern New Mexico has challenged HPD’s legal responsibility to review industry projects that occur on culturally-sensitive lands. Although a data-sharing partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in New Mexico eased the crunch in FY06, HPD and its Archaeological Records Management Section are faced with flat funding and an ever-growing need to inventory and review more cultural properties, as required by the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act.

BLM funded a project that allowed ARMS to add data from the BLM’s Carlsbad Field Office to its flagship database, the New Mexico Cultural Resource Information System. Data includes tabular and geospatial information for some 200 cultural resource surveys and 1,000 archaeological sites. In addition, ARMS added boundaries for almost 400 BLM-Carlsbad projects to its geospatial database.

Most of the new data reflected accelerated oil-and-gas industry development, which BLM projects will increase four-to-five fold in the next decade. While the good economic news is welcome, HPD faces a major backlog of un-entered data, making the NMCRIS database less current every year. The database is crucial in providing timely reviews as required under Section 106 of the 1966 Act, and streamlining pre-development.

ARMS funds much of its archival, data entry and data delivery through cooperative agreements with federal and state agencies such as BLM and N.M. Department of Transportation. But, with the exception of special projects such as the BLM-Carlsbad agreement, cooperative funding has remained flat despite the growing rate of economic activity. And, ARMS is left with a backlog of unentered data.

Specially-funded projects are a much-appreciated way of tackling the backlog. Now HPD and ARMS must secure agency and state funding for permanent solutions in the form of new, web-enabled NMCRIS applications. These tools would allow users to enter data directly in the course of filling out project and site forms, and register them on NMCRIS. Data would be entered by those who create it—when it is created—thus ensuring current information is available to planners, consultant, and reviewers, while streamlining the entire process.

Fort Bliss Maneuvers Consider Resources

Excavations of a roomblock at Fort Bliss.

Expanded military maneuvers expected at Fort Bliss in New Mexico and Texas will be managed under a multi-party Programmatic Agreement signed by the New Mexico and Texas SHPOs.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission of the Department of Defense chose 700,000-acres of Fort Bliss land for its size and similarities in environment and terrain to the Middle East. Four Heavy Brigade Combat Teams and a headquarters may be established in the area, including the use of live-fired artillery, by 20,000 to 30,000 troops for the first time in the military installation’s history.

Historical occupation of the area dates back 12,000 years, with archaeological traces remaining of Paleoindian big game hunters to Mescalero Apache campsites. Archaeologists have known since the 1920s of pueblo ruins, and caves containing cultural resources in the area.

The agreement finalized on September 19, 2006, was signed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Fort Bliss Garrison Commander, and the two SHPOs after negotiations and agency partnering that lasted throughout the fiscal year. Thirty percent of the McGregor land remains unsurveyed for historic or cultural properties that must occur before maneuvers begin. Although 57 percent of the land selected had been surveyed, an additional 30 percent, or 98,000 acres, will be surveyed under the agreement. Red Zones, or protected areas containing pristine cultural resources, will be established as off-limits to training maneuvers. Otero Mesa, one of the world’s last intact high-desert grasslands, is excluded from the agreement and all maneuvers.

Fort Bliss will prioritize surveys to accommodate mission needs, and focus on areas to receive the greatest impacts, as well as those expected to have the highest density of historic properties based on predictive modeling. Cultural resources will be identified, evaluated, public participation provided for, and the treatment of historic properties established under reasonable procedures spelled out in the agreement. Individual project reports will be submitted to New Mexico SHPO for 30-day review and comment.

The objective is an appropriate program of archaeological survey and site evaluation to accommodate Fort Bliss’s new military mission, while following the Sec. 106 review procedures established in the National Historic Preservation Act.
The rich history of Taos is celebrated not only in art, dance, and literature, but in the many museums, parks, and historic buildings located throughout the town.

Most historic resources are located in the Historic Overlay Zone, or HOZ. Established in 1982 to protect, preserve, and enhance Taos’ historical, cultural, architectural, artistic, and geological significance, the HOZ includes Taos Plaza, two historic districts, Kit Carson cemetery, and over 600 buildings, many of which are listed in the State and National Registers. Taos also designates buildings in the HOZ as “contributing” to the town’s historic integrity.

With the assistance of HPD’s Certified Local Government Program, Taos is committed to preserving and protecting the integrity of its historic resources. We are expanding the local CLG program to include historic rural landscapes, cemeteries, and trails. A network of underground tunnels rumored to exist beneath the Plaza and around the HOZ will be researched over the next year, dispelling or substantiating local legend that they were built as escape routes for less-than-faithful husbands secretly exiting the better-known establishments of the silk-stocking district.

Taos is lucky to have a highly motivated and engaged Historic Preservation Commission. Commissioners want to expand HOZ borders to protect additional buildings and preserve road corridors entering the historic area. Adopting a landmarks program to protect historic resources located throughout town, and developing a master plan for improvements to the HOZ are additional objectives.

The Commission has been very supportive of the Town’s Planning & Zoning Department, which manages CLG grants and is charged with implementing HOZ requirements. Planning & Zoning is implementing a GIS and modernizing database management. The town has begun recording all historic information digitally so important information can be retrieved instantly through GIS and other data-management systems.

To further the education and training of Town Planning staff and the commission, one planning staff member and two commissioners attended the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Taos feels very fortunate to participate in the CLG Program. It is because of the Historic Preservation Division that the town is able to protect the historic resources of Taos for current and future generations.

**Governor Authorized Restoration of HPD’s New Home**

Gov. Bill Richardson set aside $6 million to rehabilitate three historic state office buildings, including the Bataan Memorial Building, HPD’s new offices as of 2006.

Dubbed “Operation Facelift,” the initiative began with the Lamy and Lew Wallace buildings, once dormitories to the St Michael’s College complex. The Lamy was named for Santa Fe’s first archbishop, Jean Baptiste Lamy. Now headquarters for the state Tourism Department, the buildings were dedicated during National Tourism Week by Governor Richardson, Department of Cultural Affairs Secretary Stuart Ashman, tourism officials and representatives of state Property Control and HPD. Spears Architects began work on the two buildings in 2004, consulting with HPD during restoration.

The architect for Bataan is Richard Deutsch, of Hartman + Majewski architectural firm. The building served as the State Capitol from 1900 until 1966, when the Roundhouse was built, and rededicated in honor of New Mexicans who served in the 100th Coast Artillery during World War II.

Bataan at one time was the tallest building in Santa Fe because of its six-story tower added in a 1952-53 redesign. The $2.2-million restoration includes new stucco, window reglazing and painting, concrete and masonry work, landscaping and infrastructure replacement. Currently the finish of the towers bronze cupola is being restored.

HPD moved into the Bataan in spring 2006 with the DCA divisions that were housed in La Villa Rivera, a former hospital.
A $340,000 Save America’s Treasures grant made it possible in FY06 to restore a rare example of Institutional-style architecture in New Mexico, the Luna County Courthouse.

The handsome brick building with its highly-detailed fenestration and a central tower make the courthouse a landmark in the area, and the only building in Luna County listed in the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance. Besides the striking architecture, the building witnessed some of New Mexico’s more recent and colorful history.

Twenty-four of Pancho Villa’s so-called Villistas, or followers, were tried at the courthouse following their attack on nearby Columbus, N.M., on March 9, 1916. The attack left 18 villagers dead and the town largely burnt to the ground. It was the last time a foreign army invaded U.S. soil. Col. John “Black Jack” Pershing led the U.S. Army into Mexico where he captured several of Villa’s men and brought them back to Luna County for trial. But the famed World War I general never caught Villa.

The nearly 100-year-old courthouse certainly had stood the test of time, but required considerable maintenance. Brick cleaning and mortar repointing, roof replacement, window restoration, mechanical and electrical upgrades and minor work to exterior features all were paid for with the grant and the dollar-for-dollar match supplied by the county.

The original roof was made of pressed metal shingles, which the county replaced with a new custom-made metal shingles that match the original design “in kind.” The roof and the accompanying spire form two the building’s most significant architectural features.

Gov. Bill Richardson dedicated the rehabilitation of the historic Villagra Building, which re-opened in FY06 as the Paul Bardacke Attorney General Complex. The former Public Welfare Building became the first historic building in the state to be certified Gold for its energy-saving innovations.

The dedication culminated four years of work by HPD to protect the 1934, John Gaw Meem-designed building, which initially faced demolition and then severe changes to the historic character of the building. Through a partnership with the state Property Control Division, HPD worked with the architect to ensure the historic building would meet the requirements of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act, and that the addition would not be intrusive to the original Meem design.

The history of the 1868 Battle of Round Mountain is contradictory and its exact location an open question.

The Mescalero Apache recount the attack in their oral history as a peace-making expedition gone sour. A medicine woman had a dream about preparing herself and the tribe to make peace. As they approached Tularosa, they were fired upon and again faced gunshots from soldiers who retreated to their fort, and the battled ended.

Historic accounts tell a different story.

In seeking a project-specific permit from the CPRC to help determine where the battle took place, consultant Karl Laumbach, of Human Systems Research, uncovered a story of aggression by 200 Apaches against five, Third Cavalry troopers and 26 Tularosans. First-hand accounts of the battle were provided by Sgt. Edward Glass.

The morning of April 16, Sgt. Glass and four cavalrymen patrolled a wagon road between Nesbitt’s Mill and Tularosa. Glass reported Apaches attacked five soldiers who escaped to Tularosa and returned April 17 with the 26 citizens of Tularosa. The party was attacked again and retreated to a nearby hill—Round Mountain. A six-hour battle left 10 Apache dead and the Mescalero withdrew to their camp. Tularosa celebrated victory by building a church, where the town’s defenders still are commemorated each year.

Laumbach; Mescalero Apache THPO representative Holly Houghten; and Joe Ben Sanders, of Southern New Mexico Archaeological Services; hope to locate the actual site of the battle. They have begun surveying the area and hope archaeology will help encourage a common appreciation of events by better understanding the battle in its historic context.
They say that if you can remember the 1960s, you weren’t there. An Albuquerque planned community begun in 1968 not only was there, it was built to such a high-design standard that it was listed in the State Register of Cultural Properties in 1977, just nine years after completion and much sooner than the commonly-practiced 50-year age cut off for eligibility.

When completed, ninety-six distinctive adobe town homes were clustered around several park-like green spaces, pedestrian paths and recreation facilities.

American Institute of Architects Gold Award winner Antoine Predock designed the master plan for La Luz, along with most of the simple, Modern-style dwellings. Parking was banished to the perimeter of the complex, and the units took advantage of views of the Sandia Mountains to the east. A large parcel of communal land is a buffer between the homes and the Rio Grande Bosque.

“The initial spirit of La Luz was to create buildings which respect the site, not change and control it,” Predock has said of the community. “The buildings create a landscape of their own, a landscape imagery attuned to the mesa and mountains of New Mexico.”

Now more than 35-years-old, some units show the wear-and-tear of time, and the extremes of the desert climate. Marc Unversagt and Laura Fashing submitted the first La Luz tax credit application in 2004 for stucco work and gate repairs. They received $2,887 in credits on their state income tax, which represents a savings of half the project costs.

Because La Luz was listed and all its original buildings are contributing, rehabilitations are eligible to qualify for tax credits if done according to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

Four more La Luz homeowners began projects in 2005 that totaled $37,743.21, earning $18,871.60 in credits. After a group of homeowners met with HPD tax credit staff in 2006, a brief article appeared in the La Luz Landowner’s Association newsletter, and 12 applications were submitted with estimated eligible expenses of $75,298.70 subject to $37,649 in potential tax credits.

**Small Town Trends**

As in past years, more credits were issued in Albuquerque than other parts of the state due to the city’s large inventory of historic homes and commercial buildings, and by virtue of it being New Mexico’s population center. Tax projects in Silver City, Las Cruces, Roswell and Las Vegas largely were for residential properties, although Las Vegas has bucked that small-town trend.

Las Vegas projects totaling $1.3 million in local rehabilitation work are for combined commercial and residential rentals. Owners of the Eldorado Hotel, the Super Chief coffee shop and bookstore, the Crockett Building drugstore with its second-story apartment applied for state and federal credits in FY06. A combined project for the ill-fated Center Block, which collapsed in summer rains, and two associated buildings was submitted. Also, the former YMCA with offices on the first floor and apartments on the second, and several historic rental houses are eligible for $300,000 in credits.

Many communities have historic retail buildings with second-floor apartments that could take advantage of federal and state credits, including Hobbs, Silver City, Roswell and Las Cruces.

Looking to the next year, HPD may need to add a third preservation specialist to review project applications in New Mexico. As the state’s inventory of historic commercial and residential buildings becomes more inclusive of mid-century Modern architecture, and interest in creating new historic districts keeps expanding—along with the value of historic real estate—expect continued growth in the use of the federal tax credit and New Mexico’s Cultural Properties Tax Credit.
in the case of High Bay—and any Manhattan Project site—a contractor with previous experience at LANL had to be found to meet security requirements. LANL solved that problem by hiring J.B. Henderson for construction and the firm Crocker, LTD. as preservation consultants. The restoration began in December 2005 and was completed in the summer of 2006.

What is remarkable in the case of the V-Site restoration is that it leaves standing for ready interpretation an entire 35-year history of the site. A series of modest buildings and structures hastily assembled under pressure of developing the bomb before Germany could. High Bay was expertly restored: the earthen berm taken down, rebuilt and seeded; the collapsed interior wall rebuilt and the undamaged walls left intact with their original coat of paint and notes scribbled on walls by scientists working on the bomb and later on Cold War projects.

The restoration was completed with sensitivity to the resource that eventually could land it a National Historic Landmark designation. The restored building communicates that this was a wartime project. And by deciding to leave standing the charred remains of structures destroyed in the 2000 fire, LANL incorporated that part of the site’s history, as well.

But perhaps what it is even a greater accomplishment with this restoration is that it gave rise to ambitious plans and a commitment of dollars to restore other Manhattan Project sites. Led by restoration team John Isaacsen and Ellen McGehee, of LANL, work on Gun Site where Little Boy was developed has already begun. HPD is anxious to partner with the lab to review the work and offer guidance, when needed. Eventually the Quonset Hut or Trap Door Site where design work and assemblage of the Fat Man bomb was completed before being shipped to Tinian Island will be restored. Also on the list are resources associated with the Cold War, and the Concrete Bowl where tests took place to attempt recovery of plutonium.

With the restoration V-Site, and work commencing on other sites, the remaining Manhattan Project structures and buildings will leave for future generations a standing legacy of a period of time that forever changed the course of Twentieth Century and beyond.

Work completed in FY06 on a Victorian bungalow in Albuquerque’s Huning Highlands Historic District marked the second historic preservation venture between HPD and Los Alamos National Bank.

The home on Edith Street needed a new roof, a $12,025 proposition for owners Arthur and Kathy Salgado, made possible by a $7,215 HPD loan with the balance financed by LANB, the lender of record. The bank previously partnered with HPD on a small adobe in Santa Fe, a project that won a Heritage Preservation Award in 2004.

Created by the Legislature in 1989, the Preservation Loan fund provides fixed, 3-percent loans with five-year terms in partnership with commercial lenders and public institutions such as the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture’s Rural Development program. To date, HPD loans have provided $3.7 million for preservation projects in the counties of Bernalillo, Colfax, Grant, Santa Fe, Socorro, Taos, Union and Valencia. HPD is servicing more than $404,267 in loans in Albuquerque, Clayton, Magdalena and Santa Fe on projects as diverse as converting a long-abandoned hotel into affordable housing to putting on a new roof.

HPD receives approximately $1,200 each month in payments on outstanding loans to replenish the fund. Teamwork between HPD’s Services and Administration bureaus rectified the balance in the fund, and streamlined the process for providing year-end reports to the state Administrative Services Division.

New rules that save time and duplication of effort in issuing archaeological permits went into effect in FY06.

Streamlining a process burdensome to the CPRC, staff and permittees was accomplished by creating a SHPO directory. It lists qualified professional who submit qualifications during their initial application and provide updated Curriculum Vitae and documentation of continuing education credits every three years. Before the directory, many individuals resubmitted their qualifications every year.

HPD heard from a satisfied customer in private consultant Kathy Roxlau, a cultural resources specialist.

“This was the easiest permit application I think I’ve ever done, she said. “While the application last year was onerous, you came through on your promise that renewal would be easy.”

The CPRC reviewed and approved 300 archaeologists and 17 professionals specializing in historic buildings, architectural history and history for listing in the SHPO directory.
Governor Richardson earlier in the year issued an executive order that set Energy Efficient Green Building standards for all state-owned facilities. In the case of Villagra, all the original windows were to be replaced to meet the standard. But HPD provided information on interior Low-E film window coating that boosts energy efficiency high enough to meet LEED, or Leadership in Energy Efficient Design, standards. Because of the “green” approach used in rehabilitating the Villagra, it received LEED “Gold Level” certification, the highest designation usually given only in new construction.

Not only did HPD help save the character-defining, oversized wood-frame windows, but the same solution later was suggested to Scholes Hall, one of the University of New Mexico’s most striking buildings, and also a Meem design. Architects had proposed removing original windows, but HPD in consultation used the Villagra as an example, and a full window restoration was planned instead.