New Tax Credit and Loan Brochure Available

by Tom Drake

A tax credit and loan package helped turn an abandoned mining hotel into an apartment house and community center in Magdalena. Preservation loans made it possible to save from partial collapse the Hotel Belen, now home and studio of world-renowned artist Judy Chicago.

Hundreds of homes in New Mexico have been rehabilitated using tax credits, and Old Albuquerque High School — abandoned for 25 years — used state and federal tax credits to successfully convert empty classrooms into sought-after loft spaces.

These financial programs, offered by the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs for nearly 20 years, became more accessible this month with publication of *Tax Credits and Preservation Incentives*, a 16-page user’s guide to preservation that makes economic sense.

“It is a concise booklet that walks you through the process of evaluating your historic home or building for financial help in maintaining its historic integrity,” said State Historic Preservation Officer Katherine Slick. “Putting on a new roof, a major adaptive re-use and even stabilizing archaeological sites are covered.”

Published in August by HPD, *Tax Credits and Preservation Incentives* clues owners of historic buildings listed in either the State Register of Cultural Properties or the National Register of Historic Places to what they need to complete a successful tax credit or loan application. A project found eligible can benefit from a credit covering as much as half the cost of repairs with a cap of $25,000 per project for state credits. Federal credits have no cap and present the opportunity to recoup 20-percent of qualified expenses. Currently, the federal credit is available only for commercial and income-producing properties.

New Mexico, thousands of homes and buildings have been identified as contributing to more than 100 historic districts.

The publication takes pains to point out the value of restoration and rehabilitation over replacement when working on historic properties and provides examples of eligible types of work. Although not commonly known, stabilization of archaeological sites also can be funded with tax credits.

The booklet comes with a companion CD from which users can download the necessary application forms for the two phases of their tax credit projects, and provides samples of completed forms. Additional preservation incentives such as land conservation easements and Cultural Properties Preservation Easements are included in the booklet and fully explained on the CD.

Since the state tax credit program began in 1984, more than 450 New Mexico property owners have successfully rehabilitated historic homes and buildings, generating more than $22 million for construction and services in communities statewide. The program is administered in conjunction with the New Mexico Department of Taxation and Revenue, which found the credits produced a five-to-one return on investment. Preservation in New Mexico and throughout the United States contributes to quality of life and cultural heritage through increased economic activity, community pride, tourism and higher neighborhood property values, studies have found.

The Historic Preservation Loan Fund is a revolving fund in the State Treasury. Established with $300,000 in 1989, loan amounts can be limited by the fund’s balance since it fluctuates based on the payment sched-
what’s happening at hpd

Grants available at HPD

HPD opens a new grant cycle in September. The division has refined the process, putting more emphasis on projects that produce long-lasting tools — policy, ordinances or guidelines — that preserve archaeological or architectural resources, encourage community education and outreach and documentation of resources. Awards ranging from $4,000 to $7,500 will be announced early next year, and a complete timetable for application in the coming weeks. For deadlines, see www.nmhistoricpreservation.org.

Historical Society Call for Papers

Abstracts for papers and presentations for the 2006 Historical Society of New Mexico Annual Conference are due November 1. The society has issued a call for papers. One-paragraph abstracts should be submitted as proposals for individuals papers of no more than 2,000 word maximum technical abstracts should be submitted as proposals for multiple papers of no more than 10,000 words maximum. Proposals for individuals papers of no more than 20-minute reading time, although sessions comprised of three papers may be 20 minutes each.

The conference is in Albuquerque, April 20-22. The society hopes to focus talks on the city's development as New Mexico's only "major metropolis". Proposals on state and regional topics also are accepted.

For more details, contact HSNM Chairman John Bloom at HSNM Program Committee, 5620 Real del Norte, Las Cruces, NM, 88012.

21st Century School Fund

The Building Educational Successes, or BEST, initiative was launched by the 21st Century School Fund with a $1 million grant from the Ford Foundation, July 31.

Aimed at improving urban school facilities, BEST seeks to make school buildings centers for successful educational programs, community development and preservation. Outdated schools often are abandoned and seen as obstacles to revitalizing older neighborhoods and providing a good educational environment. BEST involves local communities in facility planning for neighborhood schools. Effective construction management, renovation, maintenance and stable and sufficient funding for new construction and modernization are covered. It emphasizes that older schools can be repaired to meet code without removing properties eligible, but not listed in the National Register, from protective legislation.

HPD has worked on similar projects, including the Acequia Madre, Gonzales and Carlos Gilbert schools in Santa Fe; Enos Garcia Elementary School in Taos; Cort Junior High in Las Cruces and Amistad School in Union County. In its first year, BEST will focus on eight cities: Washington, DC; Chicago, IL; Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati, OH; and Newark, Paterson, and Trenton, NJ.

National SHPO Meeting

SHPO Katherine Slick attended the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers meeting in Buffalo. Much of the discussion at the Summer Board of Director's Meeting centered around legislation in Congress, including amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act that would
Archaeology Fair Coincides with Artesia Centennial

by Glenna Dean

The Historic Preservation Division is bringing the 12th Annual New Mexico Archaeology Fair to Artesia, November 4 and 5. Underwritten in part by Yates Petroleum Corp., this family-oriented event will be staged under the trees in Central Park in conjunction with the Museum of New Mexico’s Van of Enchantment and the annual Bulldog Balloon Rally. While learning about New Mexico history, fair-goers can watch some 30 hot-air balloons, their pilots and chase crews navigate Artesia. Admission to the fair is free and so is the fun.

This year’s fair explores “Artesia Century after Century” in the town's centennial year. The associated "Tiptoe through the Past" Reading Adventure is already underway in the Artesia Public Schools and through the Artesia Public Library. Anyone can "Tiptoe through the Past". Contact HPD’s state archaeologist for details: glenna.dean@state.nm.us.

The fair opens Friday at noon, runs until 5 p.m., and encourages field trips by area schools. Fairgrounds re-open Saturday morning at 10 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Food, entertainment, and live demonstrations of traditional practices dating back thousands of years are featured both days. Professional archaeologists and exhibitors provide information about historic and prehistoric discoveries. The emphasis is on what we know about the past — and what remains to be learned — in southeastern New Mexico and adjacent Texas.

Awards will be given Saturday at noon to those who complete their "Tiptoe through the Past" Reading Adventure. Additionally, a discussion forum on Friday morning is planned for archaeologists and industry representatives involved in meshing preservation with progress while developing regional energy sources. Fair sponsors are Yates Petroleum Corp., Artesia MainStreet Inc., City of Artesia, the Artesia Historical Museum and Art Center, the Greater Artesia Chamber of Commerce, and the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance.

Featured Events

Professional archaeologists and exhibitors
Pottery making and firing
Kid’s Corner
Dyeing yarn with plants and squashed bugs
Tree chopping using stone axes
Atlatl spear thrower competition
Raffle — jewelry, books, posters and more
Museum of New Mexico’s Van of Enchantment
Reading Adventure awards
Limited-edition Archaeology Fair t-shirts
Balloons
Entertainment
Archaeology in the Oil Patch: Meshing Progress with Preservation

Exhibitor’s form available online:
www.nmhistoricpreservation.org
or contact Glenna Dean: 505-827-3989

All that’s dry or dusty about this program are the narrator’s shoes as he leads the viewer through ancient ruins, ghost towns, forts, and museums as well as high-tech laboratories.

Shot around New Mexico, “Signs of Life” takes the viewer to Chaco Canyon, the Gila Wilderness, the Folsom Site, Fort Union, and many other places before moving into laboratories in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

Fascinating examples in the field illustrate how disturbing archaeological sites destroys information important to people now and in the future. Views of scientists at work in specialized labs show the teamwork brought on by technological advances. Glimpses of past human behavior reveal we are not so different from our ancestors and form a compelling message of the importance of archaeological sciences.

Students at the middle and high school levels, as well as adults working in preservation or with an interest in the field will benefit from the program. “Signs of Life” is an engaging voice for archaeological protection and preservation, and diverse audiences have praised the 28-minute video. It is available in English or with Spanish subtitles.

The video can be bought for $15 from HPD, 228 East Palace Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87501 or 505-827-6320. Checks can be issued to “Historic Preservation Division State of New Mexico”. Please specify either VHS or DVD and the English format or with Spanish subtitles. A VHS with Spanish subtitles will be sent if no choice is specified.

The production was funded in part by a grant from the National Park Service’s Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs.
Cumbres & Toltec Line

Successful Summer Run

Desperate times, a land deal and a last-ditch maneuver by a New Mexico Governor inside FDR's private railcar gave birth to Conchas Dam, one of New Mexico's largest public works project.

Conchas Dam — its main dam structure is six feet longer than Hoover Dam, and took the same number of years to build — was honored this summer with a National Register of Historic Places listing and an anniversary celebration in late July attended by more than 500 people.

"Conchas Dam not only changed the landscape, but the way government operated in New Mexico," said State Historic Preservation Officer Katherine Slick. "It's a tribute to the people of that generation. It's a tribute to the people of that generation, the work they completed during that time, all of the manual labor … and the quality of the work is certainly due for recognition," said Gary Cordova, operations project manager at Conchas Lake. "It's a great opportunity for this generation to look back at the feat that was completed in building the first Corps project in New Mexico."

Cordova helped coordinate the Register nomination process. He discovered the 16-millimeter construction films in a corner of the Tucumcari Historical Museum, and oversaw their transfer to DVD and VHS for the anniversary. The nomination was written by Dr. John D. Schelburg, Albuquerque District cultural resource manager; and Julie Stone, park ranger. Seven years of research navigated many obstacles, including threatened demolition of the Civilian Conservation Corps housing. It eventually was preserved by local efforts that sprang from researching the register nomination.

The History

New Mexico sank deeper into the depression than most states and began the plunge nearly five years before the 1929 stock market crash because of falling land values and drastic declines in the cattle market. Nearly half of all New Mexicans were without jobs by the time Conchas Dam construction began.

The Great Depression spawned the Works Progress Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, and employment of artists through the Federal Art Project. Ultimately, 2,500 people — mostly from New Mexico, although hundreds moved from the Texas Panhandle for the jobs, and technical help came from the Midwest — were hired to build the dam, and also Conchas City.

Complete with a 700-seat movie theatre, a modern hospital, two schools, and hundreds of homes and dormitories, the town grew up from sagebrush land, part of the 40-square mile Bell Ranch. Workers labored at 25 cents an hour, forming 12"x12"x4" adobe blocks and eventually made more than 745,000 of them to build the town. Many of the same workers dismantled Conchas City once the dam was built. The same adobes were used to build an administration building, four permanent duplexes and a main house, all in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style made popular by architect John Gaw Meem and advocated by the State Planning Board during the period. The style is found statewide because of Depression-era construction, and the buildings at Conchas Dam still stand.
“Conchas Dam is a concrete gravity dam built in 29 monoliths, 235-feet high, and its length is equal to the height of the Empire State Building,” said John Murphey, HPD State and National Register coordinator. “It was the culmination of a massive endeavor that brought together virtually every New Deal program.”

Damming the Prairie

The 10 months between legislative sessions in New Mexico and the need to purchase right of way from the East Coast, absentee owners of the Bell Ranch engendered an elaborate scheme by Tingley. He acquired federal funds by speaking for the Legislature and the ranch without either party knowing it. The scheme unraveled, and the owners of the 40-square mile Bell Ranch were threatened with a lawsuit condemning 1,100 acres of their property.

As the public grew increasingly aware of the project and the potential of thousands of local jobs, pressure grew on the Bell owners to sell. They benefited from an hour in which water would be conveyed from the new dam to 3,000 acres of high ranch land in their holdings, in exchange they relinquished 17,000 acres of low land for the dam, lake and Conchas City.

Conchas Dam was the only project to be included in the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1935 that included federal purchase of a right-of-way, a testimony to the political acumen of Tingley, and his friendship with President Roosevelt. But the project never was supported by WPA administrator Harold Icke and in spite of the Bell deal, Tingley eventually had to force his hand. He took a train to the dedication of “Boulder Dam”, now Hoover Dam, on the Colorado River, and met for more than an hour in FDR’s railroad car. Roosevelt backed federal purchase of the right-of-way with an understanding the Legislature would purchase it in January 1936, months after ground was broken for foundation and other work.

On August 12, 1935, the Notice to Proceed with construction was issued. Four-thousand people took to the streets of Tucumcari, ringing bells and blowing sirens in celebration. Farms, ranches and local economies had been wiped out during the Dust Bowl years and the New Deal gave area residents a sense of hope and an opportunity to regain their dignity as working men and women.
John Conron
Founding Member of CPRC

Founding member of the Cultural Properties Review Committee, John Phelan Conron, the architect who helped draft the codes for Santa Fe style and spent years preserving the Palace of the Governors, died in June.

"He was very active in historic preservation," said Roy Woods, Conron’s business partner at Conron and Woods Architects, which the two established in 1986. "The Palace of the Governors was very dear to him. He considered it a treasure, not just for the city and state, but for the whole nation."

Conron was vice-chairman of the CPRC for ten years beginning in 1968. He helped draft the 1969 state Cultural Properties Act, which created HPD and established as law the principal that New Mexico’s historical and cultural heritage is one of the state’s most valued and important assets. He served on the CPRC with architect George Pearl, who died in August 2003.

He was instrumental in five phases of the restoration of the Palace of the Governors, beginning in 1976. His work on the exterior and interior included restoring and reconstructing the 1883 metal roof, work on period rooms and exhibit spaces, and upgrading the heating and ventilation system. Conron and Woods designed the new History Museum that will be built adjacent to the Palace and completed in 2007. Other Santa Fe projects Conron was involved in were the Museum of New Mexico Administration Building, the Museum of Fine Arts and drafting a restoration plan for Albuquerque’s Kimo Theatre. He also worked on Fuller Lodge in Los Alamos, the Stephen W. Dorsey State Monument in Colfax County and edited New Mexico Architecture and La Crónica de Nuevo México, the Historical Society publication.

Conron was interested in interior design. He for years owned a store called Centerline in Santa Fe and a similar store in Corrales. He also was one of two architects in the U.S. to be elected a Fellow in both the American Institute of Architects and the American Society of Interior Designers. Conron was born in Brookline, Mass., and received a degree in architecture from Yale University. In 1952, he moved West, at first working independently in Santa Fe, and then establishing Conron & Lent, Architects in 1954. In 1986, the firm became Conron & Woods, Architects. He also worked on buildings in Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky.

Conron died June 14, from complications after falling at his home two weeks earlier. He was 84.

John Conron won the George Clayton Pearl Award for lifetime achievement at the annual New Mexico Heritage Preservation Conference awards ceremony in April, in Taos.

Advance Planning
NMHPA Conference: Gallup Preservation Month Theme

HPD will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act and the 100th anniversary of the Antiquities Act of 1906 next year. Heritage Preservation Month activities will be themed around the anniversaries, important as two of the landmark pieces of legislation that made historic preservation official U.S. policy.

Several sessions at the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance annual conference also will center on the two acts. Already, the statewide organization has chosen Gallup as the site for next year’s conference slated to run from May 4-6. Hosting with NMHPA are the Gallup Historical Society and Plateau Sciences Society, which will present educational sessions and historic tours of the area. To be involved, contact NMHPA’s website: conference@nmheritage.org.

"Some political forces now question both laws. The seamless partnership that works for you in your community is in jeopardy," said Jerry Rogers, former NMHPA president in urging people to get involved.

HPD will illustrate its annual poster with an image that represents the contribution made by the 1906 and 1966 acts to New Mexico’s cultural resources. El Morro, or Inscription Rock named for the 2,000 signatures left by centuries of travelers who rested by the pool at its massive base, was one of the first three national monuments established by the 1906 act. People with ideas or images for the poster should contact: tom.drake@state.nm.us with electronic images, although images must eventually be available in high resolution or high-quality print suitable for poster-sized art.
New Mexico Fellows Research During Summer at HPD

Documenting the American Indian Route 66 Experience

With big letters inviting tourists to "Visit, Watch, Trade Where Real Indians Trade," across its crumbling façade, the old Santo Domingo Indian Trading Post gave Indians a place to sell their wares and interact with motorists driving Route 66. This resource and many more were explored over summer as part of a project to document the Native American experience of Route 66.

HPD and the National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program collaborated to host an intern to do the research. Funded by the National Park Service's Cultural Resources Diversity Internship program, the goal was to create a foundation for future projects that will help preserve historic resources and tell a more complete story of Route 66 and its impact on American Indians.

Much is known about the Anglo-American experience travelling Route 66. Less apparent are the experiences of American Indians who lived along it. In New Mexico alone, Route 66 passed through or nearby nine Indian reservations. The original 1920s alignment went through tribal lands, winding directly through Laguna, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo, San Felipe and Hualapai, Arizona. Route 66 fostered new forms of inter-tribal contact and crafts production. Some tribes saw the potential for inter-tribal ceremonies as a way to earn revenue and educate outsiders about their culture and tradition. The Gallup Inter-Tribal Celebration — a direct result of Route 66 — is an example of this development.

The project involved a search and analysis of literature, assembling a database of extant resources, establishing contact with tribal representatives and providing recommendations for cultural and historic resource management plans. The historical properties entered in the database are from Route 66 historic building and road segment surveys specific to each state, State and National Register listings, and site visits within New Mexico. From the database, properties associated with American Indian Route 66 experiences were identified. Recommendations were made for future cultural resource management practices.

Cultural resources that best illustrate the American Indian connection to Route 66 include the confluence of road segments, trading posts, temporary roadside stands and hotels, such as La Fonda in Santa Fe and El Rancho in Gallup.

Although no longer present, roadside stands where crafts and food and were sold were integral to interaction between Indians and tourists.

Historic Markers on the Web: Electronic Roadtripping

Starting in October, history buffs, cultural tourism enthusiasts, preservationists and weekend road-trippers can visit the World Wide Web to route their trips using the 70-year-old historic markers system found on New Mexico highways.

During the summer of 2005, interns from New Mexico Magazine and the Department of Cultural Affairs began building an electronic database of the historic markers and nearby attractions. It goes beyond the markers by providing information and encouraging drivers to further explore New Mexico's cultural landscape. The historic markers — their locations and descriptive text — are supported by archived New Mexico Magazine articles and "Moments of Enchantment" audio episodes. Attractions associated with the markers, such as museums and parks, historic buildings and districts, and geological formations, can be found by starting off at the website.

New Mexico's Scenic and Historic Markers Program is a long-term collaboration between the Historic Preservation Division and the Department of Transportation. The project was designed to showcase the history and culture of the state by enticing residents and tourists to stop and read the roadside markers with their short descriptions of various events, regions, and interesting facts about New Mexico's history. Using the markers as the cornerstone, the "Information Superhighway" is a new, online celebration of our state's cultural resources, highlighting our archaeological and historic sites, public art installations, museums and scenic locations across the state.

In FY04, the Legislature earmarked $30,000 to create the project as part of a $250,000 allotment for the Department of Tourism to engage with other agencies to promote the state's cultural resources. Rep. Luciano "Lucky" Varella, D-Santa Fe, is one of several legislators who have worked to increase the visibility of the Historic and Scenic Markers program. Partnering agencies and divisions have entered into a contract with a local web designer, and the website database is set for an initial launch during the first week of October.

When fully developed, the New Mexico Historic Markers website will provide a multi-access product that will allow New Mexico residents and visitors to type in key words and generate a personalized itinerary based on individual interests. The program will be featured on both the Historic Preservation Division and New Mexico Magazine websites, with prominent links to numerous other agencies, including the Department of Cultural Affairs and the Tourism Department, both sponsors of the project.

Editors Note: Caroline Waddell, an intern with HPD and the Route 66 Corridor program, researched Route 66. Interns working on the website were Jake McCook, through Governor Richardson's New Mexico Fellows Program; and Sean Gandert and Connor Sanchez, interns for New Mexico Magazine.
September 12 – 20  
HPD announces new grant cycle. Ken Earle: 505-827-8494, kearle@dca.state.nm.us, to be included on notification list.

September 13 & 14  
National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Workshop, Monrovia, CA. Santa Fe office: 505-988-6743.

September 29 & 30  
Deadline to file excavation permit requests (9/29) and tax credit applications (9/30) for review at October 14 CPRC meeting. HPD: 505-827-6320.

October 8 & 9  
Annual Sun Mountain Gathering held in Santa Fe on Museum Hill. Traditional craft demonstrations, Indian music and dance. Exhibits and talks on archaeology are featured. Chris Turnbow 505-476-1250; or chris.turnbow@state.nm.us

October 14  
CPRC. Marian Hall, Santa Fe, 1 p.m. Tax credit and permit subcommittees meet at 9 a.m. HPD: 505-827-6320.

September 27 - October 2  

October 21 & 22  
National Preservation Institute workshop on cemetery preservation. HPD and Department of Health co-sponsor events at the Las Vegas Medical Center. SHPO Katherine Slick and State Archaeologist Glenna Dean are featured. HPD: 505-827-6320.

November 1  
Abstracts due for papers or presentations for Historical Society of New Mexico annual conference slated for April 20-22, 2006 in Albuquerque. jbloom@zianet.com

November 4 & 5  
12th Annual Archaeology Fair in conjunction with Bulldog Ballon Rally. Artesia's Central Park. See article, p.4; exhibitors and entertainers sought for event. Glenna Dean: 505-827-3989.

November 19  
Grand opening of El Camino Real Heritage Center features dignitaries from New Mexico and Mexico, 11 a.m. Hwy. 1, 30 miles south of Bosque del Apache, along the Rio Grande. Enjoy a virtual tour, and a traditional matanza and barbeque www.nmmonuments.org

November 19  
Festival of the Cranes. The annual return of the sandhill cranes to Bosque del Apache. National Wildlife Refuge www.friendsofthebosque.org