Adventure to the Past

Off-Road Heritage Tourism to be Studied in Santa Fe

Everyone’s idea of a good vacation is a little different from the next person’s. But one thing can be agreed upon. Heritage tourists spend more, stay longer and are more willing to visit spots off the beaten path.

And so, we should welcome them—even entice them—to our states to visit our unique brand of cultural resources and create opportunities to explore places most people don’t even know about. Or should we?

This November in Santa Fe, HPD joins the Bureau of Land Management’s New Mexico and Colorado offices; representatives of the pueblos of Acoma and Taos; the Tourism Association of New Mexico; the U.S.D.A. Forest Service; the National Trust for Historic Preservation; the Colorado SHPO; the History Channel; the New Mexico Department of Tourism and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in presenting the first multi-state heritage tourism workshop with an emphasis on adventure tourism in the West. The intended audience: people who work in state and federal agencies managing cultural and recreational resources and those across the street in tourism departments who spend their days finding ever more ways to promote their geographic locale to an even broader audience. The potential benefactors: heritage tourists and the cultural and financial well-being of local economies.

Most people learn best by doing, and one of the workshop features will be a full-day field trip to a culturally sensitive area that readily presents itself as a case study in heritage-tourism management. The twelve workshop planners, who have been meeting periodically since September 2005, split up one hot July day, taking two sample trips, including one to several sites in Jemez Pueblo and the Jemez Mountains of northern New Mexico.

Participants ranged from BLM archaeologists to outreach and education specialists to a site steward with Jemez Pueblo to a Santa Fe National Forest archaeologist,

Archaeology Fair

Follow the Trails to Clayton

Come spend the night at Archaeology Fair. For the first time, festivities extend past sunset with mountain men camping overnight at fairgrounds, and dark, country skies the setting for a star-gazing party, as HPD stages its thirteenth annual New Mexico Archaeology Fair in Clayton, September 15 and 16.

Archaeology and historic-preservation professionals will present exhibits and information on local, state and regional history during the day at Centennial Park in town. As in years past, fairgoers can expect as many as 36 exhibitors. Specialists in various archaeological practices, information on local historic properties listed in the State and National Historic Registers and how HPD can help people maintain them will be available.

Demonstrations of traditional and ancient practices such as flintknapping, and building and firing coil pots over wood fires will be ongoing, and the fair continues with a perennial favorite. “One of our most popular events is lessons for kids and adults on the ancient practice of launching a spear with an atlatl—a propelling device believed to have come to this continent by way of the Bering Strait Land Bridge,” said Glenna Dean, New Mexico state archaeologist with HPD. “It’s one example of how the fair
NCHPO Meets in New Mexico

Red-cliff canyons, a grassy caldera and the gnarled, dissected volcanic walls of Pajarito Plateau above formed the setting of tours and site visits by more than 20 of the nation’s leading preservationists in July.

The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers met for three days in northern New Mexico, highlighting business with visits to Jemez Pueblo, Jemez State Monument, Valles Caldera—designated a user-funded national preserve by Congress—and cultural resources left from the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos.

The bi-annual gathering of the NCSHPO board drew 15 SHPOs; John Fowler, of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; and Jon Smith, of the National Park Service. New Mexico SHPO Katherine Slick and Tribal Liaison Sam Cata organized events with participation from HPD’s Pilar Cannizzaro and Tom Drake.

Representatives of Jemez Pueblo fielded questions, and the pueblo’s housing department director requested HPD assistance to rehabilitate unstable adobe homes and buildings. Summer thunderstorms nearly struck from the agenda trips to the V-Site and other Manhattan Project resources, but skies cleared and participants saw the sites that gave birth to the atomic bomb.

The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers is the professional association of the state government officials who carry out the nation’s historic preservation programs as delegates of the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Manhattan Project Sites Restored

A restoration of High Bay, the V-Site building where the Trinity device that triggered Fat Man—the bomb detonated at Trinity Site and prototype of the bomb exploded over Nagasaki—has been completed using a Save America’s Treasures grant.

The building with its haphazard network of heating pipes that lead to the ruins of a similar building destroyed in the 2000 Cerro Grande forest fire convey the story of buildings assembled quickly and for the purpose of winning the race to develop the atom bomb.

A June 27 site visit by HPD revealed a sensitivity to the resource that eventually could land the site a National Historic Landmark designation. Dated notations scribbled on walls by lab workers before and during the Cold War still can be easily read. A berm that had collapsed one wall of the building and partially filled it with dirt was restored and planted, the interior wall rebuilt in keeping with existing walls that have not been painted in decades.

Los Alamos National Laboratories Cultural Resource team members Ellen McGhee and John Issacson; construction foreman George Garduno and consultants Ed Crocker and Jonah Stafford led the tour.

The Cultural Resource team’s enthusiasm has led to extended plans, including a restoration Gun Site—a series of underground bunkers where Little Boy, the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, was built; and to pursue U.S. Dept. of Energy funding.

The Atomic Heritage Foundation and the Los Alamos Historical Society are hosting a series of events and fundraisers October 6 – 7 commemorating the restoration.
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provides fun that is educational and encourages exploration of new things that are really, really old without seeming like a history lesson.

There is no admission to the family-oriented fair, a major outreach component of HPD. In recent years, hundreds of school-children have attended on Friday afternoon, returning Saturday with family and friends in tow. Exhibitors still can register with Dean on or before Aug. 31. Contact her at glenna.dean@state.nm.us or 505-827-3989.

Dean has coordinated the fair with HPD the last eight years, taking it on the road to Artesia in 2005, Aztec in 2004, Tucumcari in 2003 and Silver City in 2002. Each year the fair’s theme is inspired by its new location, with the emphasis this year on the broad, expansive plains in and around Clayton and Union County. Once home to the wooly mammoth and Bison antiquus—a buffalo nearly twice as large as today’s varieties, Folsom Site, the first North American site discovered that confirmed humans as hunters of the now-extinct mammoths and bison more than 10,000 years ago also is in Union County. This year’s theme, “Follow the Trails to Clayton,” is a reference to the Comancheiro trails and the Cimarron Cut-Off of the Santa Fe Trail, which still are visible on the landscape.

The addition of a Mountain Men Rendezvous, brings a 30-year New Mexico effort to keep alive the traditions and practices of the early 1800s American Fur Trade Era to the fair. The mountain men wear period clothing, camp using traditional equipment, and shoot muzzle-loading firearms. They will be on hand Friday afternoon, through the night and all-day Saturday. The stargazing party is Saturday night at Clayton Lakes State Park, just 10 miles west of town.

This year’s “Tiptoe through the Past” summer reading adventure for youth and adults is sponsored by the Albert W. Thompson Memorial Library in Clayton and the state bookmobile program. Co-sponsoring the fair with HPD are the...

Preservation Law

Graduate students completed 40 hours of preservation-law course work this summer at the University of New Mexico.

The HPD-sponsored “Preservation Law: A Practical Tool Kit” featured authorities from the national, tribal, local and state levels.

The week-long course was organized by Deputy SHPO Jan Biella, who said students analyzed case studies and preservation briefs. They examined issues raised by recent roadwork through the petroglyphs in the Las Imágines Archaeological Historic District, and the effects of increased border security on monuments near boundaries, and other timely developments.

Field trips to Las Imágines, Amy Biehl High School and other recent Albuquerque preservation projects were included.

Sun Mountain Gathering

The fifth annual Sun Mountain Gathering on Museum Hill Museum of Indian Arts & Culture will be held October 6 and 7 in Santa Fe.

The festival features such popular events as traditional games, arrow making, spear throwing, pottery making, arts, music and other hands-on activities. Geared to families and free to the public, the Sun Mountain Gathering is an exploration of Southwestern archaeology and celebrates the cultural heritage of New Mexico.

Fridays events are for students only, while the gathering runs from 10 a.m.– 4 p.m., Saturday, and is free to the public.

Events are coordinated by the Laboratory of Anthropology. Exhibits and demonstrations representing more than 13,000 years of New Mexico’s native cultures and history are on display, with HPD providing information.

Last year’s gathering on Museum Hill
Surrounded by two of Albuquerque’s busiest streets is an oasis. The Los Alamos Addition is a bucolic neighborhood planned around five irrigation ditches that shape the residents’ interaction and the identity of this 65-acre subdivision in the city’s North Valley.

Platted in 1937 and the last home built in 1962, this part of the city with its modest-sized homes sitting on half-acre lots shaded by an incredible array of specimen trees form New Mexico’s newest historic district.

“There are more than 25 species of trees ranging from a redwood to a Japanese Pagoda to rare pomegranate and quince,” said John Murphey, coordinator of the State Register of Cultural Properties at the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs. “The subdivision was planned and advertised as being far enough from the city for quiet, country life—and as an area of rich, fertile lands suitable for growing gardens and orchards—but offering city amenities.”

Much of the original canopy of Siberian Elms that shade the four main streets of the subdivision still stand, though some have been replaced with trees currently used in streetscapes. Because trees rarely found in the Southwest thrived in the former Rio Grande “yazoo,” many of them, along with 75 of the subdivision’s 150 homes and outbuildings are considered contributing to the new historic district.

In the initial building phase of 1937 to 1940, 42 houses were constructed in cottage and Pueblo Revival styles, similar to those found in the city’s historic Monte Vista and College View districts, although less detailing is found on the small, boxy Los Alamos Addition homes. Houses are set deep in their lots, often landscaped with large hedges, huge evergreens and large grassy lawns in contrast to other early subdivisions placed with smaller lots.

“The neighborhood has its own culture and it has to do with irrigation, growing edibles and the aesthetics of landscaping,” said Ron Gedrim, who organized many of his neighbors to support the new historic district.

Gedrim, preservation consultant Mary Davis who spent two years researching and writing the nomination, and Chris Kenny, a Los Alamos Addition resident of 12 years, attended the June 9 state Cultural Properties Review Committee meeting where the district was officially listed. The nomination was made possible in part because of the efforts of Councilor Debbie O’Malley and funding by the City Council.

While many neighborhoods from 1930—1950 were built around small business districts where residents could walk to shop and catch-up with their neighbors, Los Alamos Addition was designed almost as a series of small farms. Masonry privacy walls are rare, picket or post fences more common, and the irrigation ditches every lot backs up to not only give life to the dazzling vegetation, but to the area’s sense of community.

“Every spring, a dozen or so people get together to clean the ditches of weeds and debris, and we celebrate afterwards, have a couple of beers,” Kenny said.

Tax Credits for maintaining the district’s contributing resources

Neighbors call one another when they need to share water or work on the ditches, helping maintain a cultural sense of place, according to Gedrim, preserving the rural feel of an enclave surrounded by Second and Fourth streets off busy Montano Road. Gedrim said many people have lived in the addition for 50 or 60 years.

The state’s newest historic district has drawn print and broadcast media attention, prompted a celebration and neighborhood meeting, and saw HPD tax credit specialist Harvey Kaplan fielding questions and handing out applications for new projects.

Because many of the specimen trees are singled out in the district nomination, they, along with the ditches and the majority of homes in the addition are eligible for tax credits. Major pruning of well-established and documented landscaping is an eligible maintenance expense. After the nomination was written and accepted by the CPRC, several neighbors have since approached Gedrim about trees and shrubbery planted during the district’s period of significance but not mentioned in the nomination. Kaplan noted the CPRC makes final decisions on all tax credit applications.

An estimated 45 people attended a four-hour informational meeting and party in late June following the district’s listing. Kaplan answered homeowner questions about repairing water lines to their historic properties, maintaining the unusual array of specimen trees and other landscaping deemed contributing to the district. Neighbors also had questions about routine repairs and home rehabilitation. Many copies of HPD’s brochure, Tax Credits and Financial Incentives, were distributed at the meeting.

Also attending the meeting were representatives of U.S. Rep. Heather Wilson and her challenger, State Attorney General Patricia Madrid; Councilwoman O’Malley and city preservation planner Ed Boles.
Many New Mexico subdivisions and communities were unusually planned or have reached an age where they are eligible for State Register listings. The Los Alamos Addition Historic District was one of three Albuquerque subdivisions planned around irrigation ditches, but it is the only one where the ditches still are in use today. It is also believed to be one of two such subdivisions built in the United States.

“It is one of the more recently-built subdivisions to be listed in the State Register in New Mexico,” said Katherine Slick, State Historic Preservation Officer and director of HPD. “While there are many neighborhoods in cities and towns throughout New Mexico from that time period, they must exhibit characteristics that give them a theme or sense of place that makes them eligible to be nominated. Once nominated, the state has incentives such as tax credits that assist in maintaining the defining characteristics.”

Areas of homes and buildings that have unifying characteristics or a period—or periods—of significance are eligible to be considered for district nominations. The City of Los Alamos has a cluster of Lustron homes—partially preassembled houses built of porcelain-enamel steel that appeared in suburbs to ease the housing shortage for G.I.s returning from World War II. A neighborhood of Lustrons in South Dakota was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. Closer to home, ca. 1950s subdivisions such as the Frank Tatsch-built Silver Heights Addition in Silver City, are eligible for consideration; and HPD is working on a nomination of central Albuquerque’s Sigma Chi Addition, which features a mix of ranch-style and Pueblo Revival homes. Other cities with similar neighborhoods are Clovis, Roswell, and even Santa Fe, with its 1950s neighborhoods of Allen Stamm homes in subdivisions such as Casa Solana.

Gutted by a previous owner and in danger of collapse, a mid-nineteenth-century adobe home in Las Vegas recently was rehabilitated using state and federal income tax credits available for cultural properties.

The owners of the house in the Old Town National Historic District rebuilt missing interior walls using “shadow lines” to determine where walls once stood. Missing key structural components of the roof were fitted into place, and interior ceiling vigas that had been cut off were replaced with hand-cut ponderosa pine logs. Heavy wood planks were laid, restoring the ceiling and attic floor, and the exterior mud plastered.

The monumental undertaking cost Susan Swan and her business partner $77,000, but because the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards were followed and the project planned for an income-producing property, $25,000 in state income tax credits can be claimed over the next five years and $15,400 in federal credits with no time limit. While New Mexico tax credits can be used in residential and commercial ventures on historic buildings, the federal credit is available only for properties that produce an income. In a case like the Tapia House restoration, combining the two programs essentially covered half the rehabilitation costs.

The adobe they chose for their project is known as the Tapia House, built ca. 1860s-1870s in a U-shape with a zaguan, or exterior pass to a one-time courtyard. One wing of the house was previously destroyed, leaving only an L-shaped plan. In working with Ms. Swan on the project, tax credit specialist Harvey Kaplan contacted former HPD tax credit specialist Linda Gegic, who moved to Las Vegas.

“Survivals like this house are becoming increasing rare as residents现代ize properties,” she said, pointing out materials and construction techniques used were classic examples of the architectural character that made the district historic.
all eager to discuss the pros and cons of marketing a site such as Buletsekwa—a stronghold of the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 and last hold-out in the Reconquest some 18 years later—to heritage and adventure tourists.

Buletsekwa fits the bill for both. It is accessed by a moderately steep path that provides glorious views of the red-cliff walls of Jemez Canyon’s mesa-top mountains. There are absolutely no amenities and the first stop—Little Buletsekwa, which was built before the revolt and apparently dismantled to build the larger Buletsekwa to the south—provides little for the untrained eye to reveal human activity ever took place here, save for the remnants of a defensive wall.

But a heritage tourist with a taste for adventure easily could spend hours here. On closer look and by gazing from the mesa top, field-house ruins and a reservoir mantled to build the larger Buletsekwa to the south—provides little for the untrained eye to reveal human activity ever took place here, save for the remnants of a defensive wall.

Looking down from the mesa into a valley where field houses once stood. Girl Scout troops assisted archaeologists in the 1930s with excavations.

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Buletsekwa was abandoned a generation later, the last permanent human occupation of the mesa.

This is not the stuff of Mesa Verde or Bandelier National Monument where reconstructed ruins tell the story to even the least-trained visitors. Walls at Buletsekwa are tumble-down. Visitors primarily see the tops of ruined second-story walls, although in spots entire walls that fell in profile appear as mosaics made of boulders embedded into the ground. Much of the site appears undisturbed, and despite evidence it has been visited, Buletsekwa conveys its past.

The July tour fueled enthusiasm for the upcoming training and raised numerous issues and questions all suitable for breakout sessions at the November workshop. Would sites such as Buletsekwa be better protected from vandalism, careless visitors and pot sherd collecting if they became more available to the public for interpretation? Or, would increased visits further degrade the resource simply through the wear-and-tear of human foot traffic and perhaps expose the remote site to even more threats? Since many such sites remain an active part of the spiritual life of native peoples, can concerns with intruding on long-held values be balanced with providing a meaningful experience to people unfamiliar with those traditions? What role can supporting agencies play in encouraging sustainable forms of adventure and heritage tourism, and how would the tourism industry responsibly promote visits to such sites without discouraging them?

Selected by the BLM’s Washington, D.C., office to test a pilot workshop on heritage tourism on public lands, New Mexico BLM has advocated the interpretation and use of archaeological resources for several years, said Stephen Fosberg, the BLM’s state archaeologist in New Mexico. If the workshop training proves successful, the Colorado–New Mexico experience will be exported to other states.

“If developed responsibly and strategically, heritage tourism can educate the public about the values of historic properties, and their importance for traditional communities,” Fosberg said. “The presence of visitors on sites can have a positive effect in

invited speakers

Gov. Bill Richardson
Linda Rundell N.M. BLM State Director
Sally Wisely Col. BLM State Director
John Nau Chairman, ACHP
Sandra Necessary, U.S. Dept. of Commerce
Daniel Mattson U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Michael Cerletti & Travis Suazo N.M. Department of Tourism
Scott Campbell Col. Dept. of Heritage Tourism
Brian Vallo, Acoma Pueblo
Richard Archuleta Taos Pueblo
Rueben Hammond Ute Mountain, Ute Tribe
Ron Charles Colorado River Indian Tribes
Greg Griffith U.S.F.S. R-2 Deputy Regional Forester
Amy Webb, NTHP
Debbie Scott, TANM
Tanya Armenta Albuquerque Convention Bureau
Brian Fagan, U.C. Santa Barbara
Johnny Montoya N.Mm Dept. of Tourism
Paul Narbutas N.M. Dept. of Cultural Affairs

www.blm.gov/heritage/adventures/tourism_2006.html for complete information on scheduled speakers, workshops and registration information.
History Museum Opens in Two Years

Creating a Place for the Past

Dr. Frances Levine

In the summer of 2008, the New Mexico History Museum, adjacent to the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe, will open. Our current state history museum is housed in the Palace, a building nearly 400 years old and surely one of the most important symbols of New Mexico’s historic patrimony. Preserving the Palace has been one of the central missions of the Museum of New Mexico since the museum system began in 1909. The Palace has doubled for nearly a century as both historic building and as the state’s history museum, a task too great even for this venerable building. The New Mexico History Museum project will offer the opportunity to see iconic artifacts not displayed for years because of space limitations. Our new 96,000 square-foot building will transport museum-goers to different times and places through the magic of historic photos and film, and by letting them step into immersive environments that transform period rooms into the stages of history.

The Palace staff, our foundation members, and I have held meetings in more than a dozen communities, including Alamogordo, Silver City, Monticello, Roswell, Clayton, Carlsbad, Gallup, Raton, Springer, Farmington, Los Alamos, Zuni Pueblo, Ohkay Owingee and Santa Fe, to learn what our future audiences expect this museum to offer. People have let us know they want to see exhibits ranging from the earliest Clovis site to the futuristic Spaceport. They want us to honor the struggles and triumphs of their ancestors who were native leaders and immigrants to our state. Artists, soldiers and settlers, ciboleros and comancheros, cowboys and homesteaders, miners and railroaders, merchants and lawyers, politicians and scientists, athletes and scholars comprise only a partial list of New Mexicans who will be represented.

In the design process, project architects and the museum planning committees carefully considered the impact of the new building on the scale and fabric of the Palace and its surroundings. The new building does not attempt to imitate the Palace, but its materials and massing are compatible with the distinctive regional architecture of downtown Santa Fe. The Palace will be renovated to contain galleries and restored period rooms that tell the story of New Mexico history as witnessed in this hallowed space.

The Palace staff and a development team under the direction of international museum designer Patrick Gallagher have completed the conceptual plan, laying out exhibitions and experiences visitors will step into in just two short years. The complete plan can be viewed on the Palace Web site, www.palaceofthegovernors.org.

The team divided New Mexico history into broad thematic and temporally-based exhibition areas. The exhibits in each area will build on the personal narratives and contemporaneous documents that record our history: We will use authentic artifacts, letters, diaries, photographs, film and the latest media technology to present our history in vivid exhibitions. When families enter the Museum, we want them to enjoy each visit and take pride in their history. We want them to find the stories of their communities and their families, and seek the museum as a partner in their journey of life-long learning.

Dr. Levine has served as museum director at the Palace of the Governor for four years. This is the third in a series of articles she has written on the new History Museum for Preservation New Mexico. See October 2003 and February 2004 editions for earlier stories.

Illustrations courtesy: New Mexico History Museum
September 6
Adventures in Anthropology Trips and Tours features Spanish Missions of the Zia and Jemez pueblos. Meet at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture Lab of Anthropology, 7:45 a.m. & return 7 p.m. Register early; limited space: 505-476-1258. Museum of New Mexico Foundation.

September 15 & 16
13th annual New Mexico Archaeology Fair. See story this issue. Centennial Park, Clayton. Noon – 5 p.m., Friday; and 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday. HPD State Archaeologist Glenna Dean: 505-827-3989. glenna.dean@state.nm.us.

October 6 & 7
Dedication of the recently restored V Site, of the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos. Rare tours on Friday with a 5 p.m. ceremony. A symposium, Saturday, features with Pulitzer-prize winning author Richard Rhodes as keynote speaker. Atomic Heritage Foundation and Los Alamos Historical Society. 505-662-6272.

October 6 & 7
Sun Mountain Gathering. Arts, crafts, archaeology and historic preservation are featured at the fair on Museum Hill in Santa Fe. Students Friday afternoon, and Saturday everyone is invited 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Contact: Chris Turnbow, 505-476-1252.

October 13
State Cultural Properties Review Committee bi-monthly meeting to consider new listings to the State Register, tax credit applications and archaeological permit requests. See our web calendar for important deadlines. State Capitol, Room 311. 1 p.m.

October 20-21
SiteWatch Statewide Conference. Stewards from New Mexico and nearby states meet at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, 2401 12th St., NW, Albuquerque to share stories from the field and improve means of protecting our cultural resources. Contact: Phil Young, 505-827-6314.

October 30 – November 4

November 13-16
Heritage Tourism Workshop. Representatives of cultural-resource and land-management agencies, Indian tribes and the tourism industry from New Mexico and Colorado host the workshop and site visits in and around Santa Fe. Contact: Stephen Fosberg, 505-438-7415.

December 8
State Cultural Properties Review Committee bi-monthly meeting to consider new listings to the State Register, tax credit applications and archaeological permit requests. See our web calendar for important deadlines. State Capitol, Room 311. 1 p.m.