PD each year is asked by the U.S. State Department and the Albuquerque Council for International Visitors to host foreign travelers to New Mexico who either are students or are working in the fields of historic preservation, archaeology or heritage tourism.

The objective is to explore current practices and new technology in cultural heritage preservation management, often comparing it to techniques used in the countries that are home to our visitors. Generally, there are striking similarities. Funds and resources for preservation often are scarce. There is an emphasis on heritage tourism although balancing the benefits with the potential to denigrate cultural sites from heavy human traffic is challenging. But there usually is one striking difference. The strong private property laws in the U.S. often are in stark contrast to those in other countries where cultural sites are more commonly in the public domain while our National and State Registers are filled with properties owned privately.

In FY12, HPD hosted 16 visiting international preservation professionals from Albania, Cambodia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Haiti, India, Macedonia, Peru, Poland, Singapore, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and the West Bank.

The visitors were especially interested in how HPD electronically documents cultural resources in the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System and the uses of the State and National registers, and state and federal project review and permitting for preservation professionals. Of equal interest were outreach programs such as the volunteer program SiteWatch, HPD’s granting authority and Heritage Preservation Month with its goal of promoting a preservation theme for any given year. Visitors took home copies of the SiteWatch handbook, HPD publications and Preservation Month posters. The experience confirmed people all over the globe are working to preserve cultural heritage for generations to come.

This Activities Report features stories on these programs and more.
Cultural Properties Review Committee Helps Guide Preservation

The Cultural Properties Review Committee fulfills an invaluable role in preserving New Mexico’s cultural heritage.

As HPD’s policy and advisory committee, its members are charged under federal and state laws with reviewing proposals to preserve the state’s cultural properties. Under state law the CPRC, in conjunction with HPD, present an annual report on preservation activities in New Mexico to the governor and legislature.

The CPRC reviews and lists nominations to the State Register of Cultural Properties and recommends which resources should be included in the National Register of Historic Places. Members approve state preservation tax credits for rehabilitating historic homes, buildings and structures and give advice on preservation loan applications. It approves archaeological permits for projects on state land and reviews the credentials of consultants engaged in this type of work. The committee decides language for Official Scenic Historic Markers and reviews preservation accomplishments statewide for Heritage Preservation Awards presented each May. Examples of activities completed in association with HPD’s State Historic Preservation Officer and staff are found throughout this report.

Members are appointed by the governor with the exception of the state historian, who serves by statute. They are recognized experts in the fields of history, archaeology and architecture.

Chairman
Dr. Rick Hendricks has been New Mexico’s State Historian since 2010 and is considered state government’s primary authority on New Mexico history. He holds a Ph.D. in Ibero-American Studies from the University of New Mexico and a B.A. in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At UNM, Dr. Hendricks was an editor of the Vargas Project, and has written or collaborated on more than 16 books and 70 articles on the Spanish colonial period in the Southwest and New Mexico. He taught at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces and worked in the school’s Archives and Special Collections Department before assuming the state historian position.

History
Clarence Fielder recently retired from a 40-year career teaching history and African American Studies at New Mexico State University. He assisted in creating “The African-American Community of Las Cruces, 1890-2002” exhibit for NMSU’s museum and has worked tirelessly to preserve Phillips Chapel C.M.E. Church in the city’s Mesquite Street Original Townsite Historic District, providing invaluable information and assistance to list it in the National Register of Historic Places. He has served on the CPRC since 2006.

Architect
Reginald Richey owns an architectural firm in Lincoln, New Mexico. He was a principal in firms based in Denver and Boulder, Colorado, and early in his career worked at firms in Philadelphia. A member of the American Institute of Architects, he also has been involved in numerous academic activities at the University of Colorado and Louis Sauer Studio. Mr. Richey currently is the public member of the BLM’s Pecos District Resource Advisory Council and for five years was chairman of the Lincoln Historic Preservation Board.

Historic Archaeologist
Douglas Boggess is a project manager, principal investigator and historical archaeologist for Lone Mountain Archaeological Services, Inc., in Albuquerque. He holds a permit from the state of New Mexico as a historian and from Navajo Nation as an ethnographer. Mr. Boggess has conducted surveys, testing, data recovery and authored reports on projects throughout the state. He completed graduate work in Mesoamerican and Southwestern archaeology and holds an M.A. in Classical Archaeology from the University of Arizona, Tucson. He was appointed in 2011.

Tribal Member
Ronald G. Toya is a retired deputy regional director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. A member of Jemez Pueblo, Mr. Toya served on the Committee on Natural Resources and Pueblo Conservation. He is on the board of the New Mexico Coalition for Charter Schools, and was chairman of the state Commission on Higher Education. A graduate of the Leadership Albuquerque program and a recipient of the New Mexico “Distinguished Public Service Award.” Mr. Toya holds degrees in economics and psychology from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. He has served on the committee since 2011.

Prehistoric Archaeologist
Dr. Matthew Bandy is the cultural resources program manager of SWCA Environmental Consultants’ Albuquerque office. He holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley, and a B.A. with honors in the same field from Stanford. He has participated in archaeological and anthropological field work throughout the Southwest and in Bolivia, Peru, Mexico and Greece. Dr. Bandy is a published author. His work also appears in Current Anthropology, American Antiquity and other journals. He has served on the committee since 2011.
It’s been roughly twenty years now when I worked for the National Park Service as a ranger/interpreter on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The idea back then of doing “public history” was very new. In fact, the discipline itself wasn’t that old, having come of age in the mid-1970s first manifested in policy studies, then later with museums and national park education. Today, public historians can be found everywhere history is practiced, including museums, historic sites, archives and state historic preservation offices. As an alumnus of Arizona State’s Ph.D. program, it’s so very gratifying to see many of my colleagues out there “doing history.”

That’s why my appointment as your new SHPO is so gratifying. It shows just how far public history has come since the mid-1970s. Perhaps more importantly it shows a commitment on behalf of Governor Martinez and Secretary of Cultural Affairs Veronica Gonzales that the skills leveraged by a career in public history are transferable and worthy enough to tackle the responsibilities of an active State Historic Preservation Office. Indeed, my first few months on the job have been busy ones, testing all my skills as an administrator and historian. But the work itself is fascinating—just as I thought it would be.

Looking ahead, my intent is to position SHPO as a “client friendly” agency that can render our considerable professional expertise in ways to better articulate historic preservation as a community asset. Beyond our regulatory responsibilities, SHPO is also charged with serving the public, essentially as teachers and technical advisors on how best to protect the historical integrity of New Mexico, for both the built environment and the remarkable archaeological resources this state maintains. It’s a humbling responsibility, a daunting one if you consider it more closely, but it’s also an honor and I promise to do whatever it takes to make this office truly accountable for the many challenges that confront us.

The Historic Preservation Division’s mission, established in state and federal law, is to promote the protection, preservation and appreciation of New Mexico’s cultural resources—its archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures, historic districts and cultural landscapes, and its diverse cultures—for public benefit, citizens and visitors alike. The stories included in this biennial report summarize and highlight HPD’s programs, activities and accomplishments during FY11 and FY12.

HPD is a busy division. In any given year it works with federal and state agencies, local governments, non-profits, archaeological and historical societies, and New Mexico’s citizens on 2,000 to 3,000 projects each year. With the slowing of the economy, the number of projects HPD reviewed has decreased from previous years, beginning in FY11 and continuing in FY12. In difficult economic times it is not uncommon for agencies, local governments and citizens to delay or defer projects.

During the last two years we noted losses to the historic fabric of the state—sometimes through vandalism, but also because of deferred maintenance and repairs that has led to the demolition of historic buildings and structures. At the same time we have seen communities rehabilitating and reconstructing important buildings.
Work at the Santo Domingo Trading Post and reconstruction of a roomblock at Taos Pueblo are examples of communities, organizations and agencies working together to preserve part of our history for future generations.

Preservation is achieved through collaboration and partnerships. Notable successes include several long-term and continuing development projects that have improved preservation in the state. One, the Permian Basin Memorandum of Agreement, is an innovative program that applies to oil and gas development on one-million acres of land managed by Bureau of Land Management, Carlsbad Field Office. Partners include the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, New Mexico Archaeological Council, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, New Mexico Archaeological Council, Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association, and others—resulted in a project designed to minimize impacts to this fragile landscape and outlined a research program that includes new methods to identify additional segments of Camino Real and their associated archaeological sites.

Another partnership success stems from the cultural resource studies conducted to help mitigate the impacts of the development of Spaceport America on highly significant cultural resources in the Jornada del Muerto including well-preserved segments of Camino Real and a number of archaeological sites. Collaboration and diverse viewpoints of many partners—the FAA, Spaceport America, NPS, BLM, SHPO, State Land Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation, New Mexico Archaeological Council, Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association, and others—resulted in a project designed to minimize impacts to this fragile landscape and outlined a research program.

On a personal note, my tenure as interim State Historic Preservation Officer and Sam Cata’s term as HPD’s interim Director came to a close after nearly three years. It would not have been possible without the efforts of HPD’s talented and dedicated staff. Thanks to all and the warmest welcome to Jeff Pappas, HPD’s new Director and SHPO. I can now return to my deputy duties and to my new appointment as New Mexico State Archaeologist.

The 2012 ground breaking for the rehabilitation of the Santo Domingo Trading Post was possible after volunteer laborers manufactured thousands of adobe bricks to restore the 115-year-old trading post largely destroyed in a 2001 fire. Volunteers—they included pueblo youth, visiting businessmen and college students—were trained by Cornerstones Community Partnerships. Cornerstones is one of several partners working on the project, including HPD, Avanyu Construction and Spears Architects. Santo Domingo Pueblo is the project lead and has secured more than $1 million in grants to complete the project. The trading post first served train travelers and later motorists on Route 66. It was renowned for its jewelry and was a draw for visiting dignitaries, including President John F. Kennedy.
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division | Activities Report FY11 & FY12

Preservation on the Map

New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System – Recorded Sites
FY12: 3,070; FY11: 2,192

Certified Local Government
FY12: 5; FY11: 5

CPRC-Issued Archaeological Permits
FY12: 130; FY11: 120

Loan Fund
FY12: 3; FY11: 3

Federal and State Project Review
FY12: 1,807; FY11: 2,156

SiteWatch Chapters
FY12: 25; FY11: 25

Small Federal Grants
FY12: 10; FY11: 2

Heritage Preservation Month (Events/Attendance)
FY12: 34/6,824; FY11: 86/6,920

Save America’s Treasures and Preserve America
FY12: 1; FY11: 1

Official Scenic Historic Markers
FY12: 10; FY11: 9

State and National Register (including contributing properties)
FY12: 280; FY11: 33

State and National Register Eligibility Determinations
FY12: 4,067; FY11: 3,517

State and Federal Tax Credits – Applications and Completed Projects
FY12: 94; FY11: 72

Program Key
Statewide totals represent the number of projects or events for each program.
This door was designed and built by artist Gerald Cassidy for the Santa Fe home he purchased and redesigned beginning in 1915. The door and many wood features of the home were restored in 2010 using state preservation tax credits administered by HPD and the CPRC.

New Mexico’s cultural heritage is the backbone of the state’s $3.3 billion culture industry. Approximately half of that figure is generated through heritage tourism involving the state’s cultural sites, including museums, monuments, historic buildings and districts, and archaeological sites.

The New Mexico Historic Preservation Division plays a vital role working with communities to preserve the cultural resources that have drawn visitors for generations. The Activities Report for Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012 provides information on these programs and the types of activities engaged in by preservationists statewide.

HPD funding has been flat for four years. Annual budgets have remained at $1.8 million since FY09.

The budget is funded through three primary sources, and the two most significant have decreased in the last two years. State funding dropped by approximately $200,000 to $575,000 in FY12, decreasing federal funding, which is based in part on a state match. HPD received $700,000 in federal Historic Preservation Funds from the National Park Service, representing a decline of $175,000. But, user fees from New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System subscribers increased by $25,000 to $225,000, and service agreements with federal agencies jumped to $200,000.

Grants

HPD sets aside 10 percent of its annual HPF allocation for grants to the eight New Mexico communities in the Certified Local Government program. These totaled $129,000 in the last two fiscal years, and have a minimum twofold economic impact since they require a 50-percent match. In addition they stimulate economic activity through educational opportunities including conferences and other training. The funds also are used in preservation planning that often leads to rehabilitation of historic buildings and structures.

In addition, the division issues small grants at its discretion. These totaled $4,500 in the last two years, a decrease from nearly $78,000 in FYs 09 & 10 when state-funded grants were available and the division’s HPF allotment was significantly larger.

Financial Incentives

Preservation tax credits for the rehabilitation of New Mexico properties listed in the State or National registers have a 7:1 ratio of economic development for every dollar invested through the credit. New Mexico has a State Income Tax Credit for registered properties. Half of rehabilitation costs with a maximum $25,000 credit are eligible to offset state income taxes over a five-years period. In Arts and Cultural Districts the cap is $50,000 in credits.

In conjunction with the National Park Service, it facilitates a Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive. Two large hotel projects in Albuquerque and Las Vegas were recorded in the last two fiscal years, accounting for the lion’s share of the $9.9 million in credits made available to New Mexico owners of historic properties. Total project costs for the same period were $64.2 million. This is a substantial increase from FYs 09 & 10 when $5.1 million in credits led to $22 million in development, although during this period there were more individual projects.

Of the 166 preservation tax credit projects completed in FY11 and FY12, more than 90 percent were residential and most of them individual homes. This marks a decline from the previous two fiscal years when tax projects totaled 200.

HPD also administers the Preservation Loan Fund and MainStreet Revolving Loan Fund. During the last two fiscal years, nearly $383,000 was repaid on four preservation loans totaling $454,000 and representing a $4.1 million community investment in historic buildings.

Although business owners in six MainStreet communities applied for loans that were approved by the MainStreet Revolving Fund Committee, none of the loans were financed in part because of market conditions.
Several miles of two trails that changed the face of New Mexico, a Navajo trading post that opened in 1927, the oldest Mexican land grant in the state and an historic district near the Texas border were among cultural sites in New Mexico listed in the State and National registers.

They were among 313 cultural sites added to the Registers during the last two fiscal years. Many were buildings or structures that contribute to historic districts and approximately 20 listings recognized individual buildings, homes or sites.

HPD and the CPRC put more emphasis on encouraging preservation in rural and underserved parts of the state by seeking nominations outside of the New Mexico’s higher population centers, which generally are well represented in the registers. Here are some FY 11 & 12 highlights from remote areas in New Mexico.

The Santa Fe Trail connected Franklin, Missouri, with Santa Fe. While the Camino Real facilitated trade to the north and south and is highly significant in the colonization of North America by Europeans, the Santa Fe Trail was established in 1821 as an east-west route initially to take advantage of trade between the U.S. and Mexico, which had recently freed itself from Spanish rule. But the trail soon became a force that also altered New Mexico. After the U.S. acquired the Southwest from Mexico in 1846, the trail opened the region to U.S. economic development and expanded U.S. interests. It became a vital commercial and military trail, especially during the Civil War, until the arrival of the railroad in the 1880s.

Several sections of the Santa Fe Trail in New Mexico and other states through which it passed—Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Colorado—previously were recognized in the National Register and some sections are designated National Historic Landmarks. The four states worked together to update their inventory of trail sections. With assistance from the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management, 50 previously unrecognized segments of the Santa Fe Trail will be nominated to the National Register. Twelve of the sections are in New Mexico. During the last two fiscal years, four segments in Union, Colfax, Mora and Santa Fe counties were listed in the State Register.

“We want to get people out there and share that vicarious experience of traveling the trail,” Aaron Mahr, superintendent of NPS’s National Trails Intermountain Region, told the CPRC. “Something just stays with you for months when you are out there and see these ruts.”

The Guadalupita/Coyote Historic District commemorates a cultural and agricultural landscape largely unchanged from when the area was established under a Mexican land grant through New Mexico’s statehood and into the middle of the twentieth century.

The district is 8,140 acres of mountains and valleys in Mora County, dotted with small ranches, homes, mines and religious sites dating back to 1851. To this day, descendants of families that first settled it continue to use nearby natural resources and acequias that di-

The Cultural Properties Review Committee approved an historic context and subsequent Camino trail segment nominations that were listed in the National Register. The committee also listed individual trail sections in multiple counties, including three in Doña Ana, three in Sierra, two in Socorro and three in Santa Fe. Most of these are on public lands and many of the sites are open for public interpretation. Ten of them were listed in the National Register in March 2012.
vert water from Rio Coyote to irrigate crops for their sustenance.

Malcom Ebright, of the private Center for Land Grant Studies, drafted the nomination with HPD’s technical assistance. When the CPRC listed it in the State Register in FY12, he said it was rare to find “such a well-preserved cohesive area that has changed little on the ground in over 150 years so that roads, acequias, property lines, and even families are about the same as when … families first settled there.”

Borrego Pass Trading Post Historic District was listed in the State Register in 2010 and in the National Register in 2012. It is considered nationally significant for its association with commerce, the Navajo Nation and the Mormons.

The trading post has operated since 1927 when it was established by Ben and Anna Harvey. Navajo shepherders traded wool—they also bartered in rugs, jewelry and piñon nuts—for goods offered by the Harveys and later owners who marketed the wool, which was shipped as far as England.

Today, Borrego Pass Trading Post transactions largely are monetary; the sheep are gone and the general merchandise has changed but the Navajo still trade in piñon nuts, livestock and horses. Of the estimated 400 trading posts that existed in the Four Corners region, Borrego Pass is one of the few not to succumb to convenience store trade, abandonment or demolition. Most trading posts went out of business by the 1980s as the economy focused more on oil-and-gas development, trade was conducted in cash and sheep depleted both from overgrazing and by government enforced reductions of herds on Navajo lands. But Borrego Pass survived in part due to its isolated McKinley County location on County Road 509, which remained unpaved until 2009.

The current owners are descendants of Fern and Donald Smouse who operated the trading post from 1941-1991. They established the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel in the mid-1950s, building on a long tradition of trade between the Navajo and Mormons that predates the Navajo’s 1864 exile to Fort Sumner by the U.S.

Lovington Commercial Historic District stands out as an example of the diversity of New Mexico’s culture. Twelve blocks of buildings speak to the self-proclaimed “Queen City of the Plains” roots as a government, agricultural, ranching and oil center on New Mexico’s southeastern plains.

Just 20 miles from the Texas border, Lovington can trace its roots to the waning days of open-range ranching, which depleted much of west Texas’ grasslands. Llano Estacado, the high plains surrounding Lovington, drew Texas ranchers who settled the New Mexico territory in the early 1900s.

Listed in the State Register in FY12, the district nomination was a grassroots effort initiated by New Mexico Main-Street, which in recent years has helped establish historic districts in Hobbs, Artesia, Carlsbad and Clayton. Downtown Lovington, as in many New Mexico small towns, is an economic force where buildings change and streetscapes evolve. But Lovington is noteworthy as the only city in New Mexico that remains tightly compacted around its courthouse square. Of the 72 buildings and structures in the district, 52 directly relate to the downtown’s period of historic significance, 1918-1960.

The Lister Building was built in Lovington in 1931.

**Additional State and National Register Listings**

- Hinkle Building, SR: FY11, Chaves
- Immanuel Presbyterian Church, NR: FY11, Bernalillo Co.
- Mission Chapel of Our Lady of Light, SR: FY11, Santa Fe Co.
- Camino Real Trail Sections (10)
  - La Bajada Mesa, SR: FY11, NR: FY12, Santa Fe Co.
  - Canon de las Bocas, SR: FY11, NR: FY12, Santa Fe Co.
  - Qualacu Pueblo, SR: FY11, NR: FY12, Socorro
  - San Pascual Pueblo, SR: FY11, NR: FY12, Socorro
  - Jornada Lakes, SR: FY11, NR: FY12, Sierra Co.
  - Yost Draw, SR: FY11, NR: FY12, Sierra Co.
  - Point of Rocks, SR: FY11, NR: FY12, Sierra
  - Rincon Arroyo/Perrillo, SR: FY11, NR: FY12, Doña Ana Co.
  - San Diego South, SR: FY11, NR: FY12, Doña Ana Co.
  - San Diego North-South, SR: FY12; NR: FY12, Doña Ana Co.
- Historic Resources of Cañon Community MPDF (historic context), SR: FY11, Taos Co.
- Old Taos Guesthouse, SR: FY11, Taos Co.
- Martinez Property, SR: FY11, Taos Co.
Hotel Clovis—one of New Mexico’s Art Deco masterpieces—was vacant for 30 years. But an ambitious residential project is breathing new life into the 81-year-old building, and revitalizing downtown Clovis.

Once completed, 21 workforce housing units will fill the upper floors of the nine-story former hotel which once was the tallest building between Albuquerque and Dallas. The $6.89-million adaptive re-use is possible because of a financial package that includes Federal Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings administered by HPD with the National Park Service. Nearly completed, the hotel will qualify for $1.37 million in federal preservation income tax credits.

Developers Stephen Crozier and Tierra Realty Trust, LLC will include 3,700 square feet of leasable space on the hotel’s ground floor, restoring original copper clad store fronts. Replacement energy-efficient windows that match the design of the missing originals have been installed on the upper floors, which housed 114 guest rooms. In all, some 8,000 square feet of the building will be open for community use, including the hotel’s restored lobby and ballroom. All mechanical, plumbing and electrical work is being replaced.

Art Deco details, including plaster and tile work in the lobby, and hand-painted beams and lintels in the second-floor ballroom have been restored. Decorative detailing was restored on nine-story vertical piers that rise from the ground floor to the top of the building and are capped by signature cast-stone Indian busts (see cover).

The adaptive re-use not only is a preservation achievement but will be certified at LEED’s platinum level, the highest ranking for incorporating green building techniques, and perhaps the highest of any historic rehabilitation in the country, Crozier said.

“There is a strong need for workforce housing in Clovis and in fact all over southeast New Mexico,” said Mr. Crozier, who was drawn to the hotel for its architecture and to the community of Clovis in general. Based in Santa Fe, he has restored buildings in Providence, Rhode Island.

“Our mission is to environmentally convert interesting buildings from one use to another,” he said, noting the hotel project’s greatest challenge was meeting preservation standards while incorporating environmentally sound building practices.

Another component—separate from the hotel tax credit work, but from the same developers—is 29 additional one- and two bedroom apartments constructed on nearby, formerly empty lots. One of the new buildings is fully leased. A farmers market with a restored 1960s Conoco gas station as offices will serve as its headquarters and shelter during inclement weather.

A large array of solar panels was built for the new units that also power the apartments in the old hotel. All units include tankless hot water heaters and the interior walls and ceiling of the hotel were built out to accommodate insulation to further improve the project’s energy-saving qualities.

Funded through the New Mexico Finance Authority and HUD, construction of the two new buildings also involves HPD project review because of the use of state and federal funds. Combined with the hotel project, more than $8 million is being invested in downtown Clovis.
A contributing house in Los Griegos Historic District located three miles north of downtown Albuquerque, the Garoffolo House was built ca. 1880. Like many of its neighboring homes and churches, this home is an excellent example of vernacular New Mexico architecture, reflecting the town’s heritage as an old Spanish agricultural community. The current owners completed a careful rehabilitation of the rental property, making minimal changes to its historic features and spaces. Built of adobe and terrones, cracks and peeling sections of interior and exterior walls, hearths and chimneys were repaired. The home was rewired to meet code and the space above the ceiling insulated. The heating system was repaired, plumbing and bathroom redone, and the wood floors refinished. These and many other repairs were eligible for the maximum $25,000 credit, which can be taken over a five-year period.

Located in Albuquerque’s Silver Hill Historic District, the O.D. Wait House was built in the Southwestern Vernacular/Mediterranean style between 1917 and 1918. The current owners began repairs in the fall of 2010. The CPRC recently approved a $9,751 tax credit for rehabilitation costs. Eligible work included replacing a deteriorating solid front door with a French door that matched those surrounding it. The entire house was replumbed and the hot-water heater replaced. Much of the home’s interior molding around doors, windows and the fireplace was refurbished. When the district was listed in the State and National Registers in 1986 it was considered one of Albuquerque’s best preserved subdivisions.

The Mesquite Original Townsite Historic District in Las Cruces is the site of the original city. Listed in the State Register in 1980 and the National Register in 1985, several homeowners in the district have successfully used tax credits to complete rehabilitations. The Luna-Triviz House owners completed work in FY11, including completely rewiring the house and replacing aluminum windows with wood-framed windows that restored much of the home’s historic character. They repaired ceilings, floors and interior walls. The owners began planning the rehabilitation of their home working with HPD in 2006. The rehabilitation totaled $22,080 and was eligible for an $11,040 credit.

A small home at 706 B Street in the Black’s Addition Historic District of Silver City is one of several bungalows built of concrete in the neighborhood around 1915. It is one of a few with its historic wood-framed windows in place, and the owners took care to caulk and restore them during rehabilitation. Other work included replacing the existing wiring to meet code, installing new heating, replumbing the entire house, and other interior work. The property is owned as a rental. It qualified for nearly $4,400 in credits for $8,800 of work. The neighborhood is historic as the first incorporated addition to the original town and represents the boom-and-bust of the local mining economy and the growing number of health seekers that moved to New Mexico around 1900.

The Cassidy House in the Santa Fe Historic District was the sprawling adobe home of artist Gerald Cassidy who purchased it in 1915. At the time there were three buildings on the property, which Cassidy incorporated into one home using architectural elements from other buildings, including corbels and wooden beams and one in particular inscribed with the date 1729 from the collapsed Mission de San Francisco in Nambe. The current owners received the maximum $25,000 state credit for preserving vigas, windows and doors and other wooden architectural features related to Cassidy’s ownership of the home. Known in the Southwest as a muralist and painter, he died in 1934 while working on a mural in the dome of the federal building in Santa Fe. He originally came to New Mexico in 1899 after being diagnosed with tuberculosis.
Reviewing Projects

Thousands of projects cross HPD desks each year for review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and provisions in the state Cultural Properties Act. The national act requires all federal agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on historic properties to help ensure the nation’s essential cultural heritage is not lost to wholesale demolition or ill-conceived development. In the last two years, nearly 4,000 projects were reviewed and more than 7,500 National Register eligibility determinations made by HPD as one of the nation’s state historic preservation offices (see map, page 5).

Seventy-five-year-old classrooms at the New Mexico School for the Deaf in Santa Fe were transformed into state-of-the-art learning centers as part of the rehabilitation of one of the campus’s most historic buildings.

Dillon Hall was built in 1936 as part of a New Deal project to modernize the campus established by the New Mexico legislature in 1887 and founded privately two years earlier. It was among six Pueblo-Revival buildings that helped establish the architectural style in New Mexico. Although the campus in 2010 had considered demolishing the building, the success it had with the Heritage Preservation award-winning rehabilitation of Connor Hall on the campus influenced the school to work with HPD and restore the building to its 1936 appearance.

To accommodate the needs of today’s students, most of the small classrooms were doubled in size, in effect using two original classrooms to create spacious classrooms throughout the building. As with many Works Project Administration buildings from the New Deal era, Dillon Hall has beautiful detailing, all of which were preserved. The original tiled baseboards that line the hallway were carefully preserved, along with the hallway’s widths. The interior’s decorative, hand-painted beams and lentils were restored and the exterior’s projecting vigas and entry façade with round wood columns and wood beams preserved.

To bring the building up to code, a new heating and cooling system were added and storm windows installed over the original six-by-six, double-hung, restored wood-frame windows. A 1955 addition was demolished, which helped accentuate the original stepped massing that gives this building and others on campus a unified appearance and gives the school its visual identity.

Voter support of a bond issue made possible the $5-million project which was completed in May 2012. The use of public funds on a state building, and especially one listed in the National Register, brought HPD into the project to provide technical expertise and guidance during the two-year project.

When Doña Ana was established in 1843, it was the only permanent settlement between El Paso and Socorro. Built in the Spanish-Mexican vernacular, its adobe buildings, Nuestra Señora de la Purificaciones church facing the plaza, irrigation ditches and 26 of the village’s residences form a national historic district.

Two of those homes, the Wertheim and Carrillo residences, have long been known as the Pink Buildings, so named for their rosy-hued earthen color. Boarded up and unused, no one had lived in them for years.

Legislative funds secured by former state Senator Mary Jane Garcia have transformed these and several abandoned buildings. Now the village has a visitor center, a museum and exhibit hall. Work in the last two years resulted in the Carrillo home opening as a business incubator and computer training facility, and the Wertheim as a community center.

Contractors worked closely with HPD as part of project review under the Cultural Properties Act, resulting in expert restorations and adaptive re-uses of the historic adobes.

Much of the original architecture was preserved inside and out, even retaining the original color as a nod to the only “pink buildings” in town. Original windows were restored, rotting vigas replaced, new wood floors installed and interior walls refinished. An interior frame wall was built to house computer lines and other utilities.

Doña Ana and Mesilla are considered the most intact of the Mexican-American villages established in Mesilla Valley between 1843 and 1865. The expert adaptive re-use of the two former homes and other rehabilitations in the village helps Doña Ana retain its historic character and keeps it on the map as a heritage tourism destination.
Permits — Archaeology reveals 1,000 year-old settlement

Two years of field work have led to a better understanding of what may have been a substantial settlement in southwestern New Mexico. At one time, the Woodrow Ruin featured several public spaces, two great kivas and hundreds of masonry and other rooms developed over 600 years.

Archaeological investigations by Dr. Stephen Lekson and Jakob Sedig, a University of Colorado graduate student, were made possible by two project-specific archaeological permits granted by the CPRC in fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

The site in Grant County near Cliff is especially well preserved, in part because much of the 10-acre site has been fenced off and managed by the Museum of New Mexico since the 1970s. Pothunters and other potential looters have been deterred, allowing the investigators to study pottery sherds that revealed a wealth of information about a site that is listed in the State and National Registers and documented by the state Laboratory of Anthropology and in HPD's New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System.

A series of mounds and depressions mark the surface of Woodrow Ruin. Pit houses, a Chacoan-like roomblock located between the kivas, 16 masonry surface roomblocks and several open areas that may have been plazas indicate a sophisticated Mimbres Culture site. Some archaeologists believe it’s possible that one of the open areas was a ballcourt, more commonly associated with the Hohokam culture in Arizona.

After completing the surface analysis of the ceramics, the University of Colorado mapped the area using high precision GPS technology and ground penetrating radar. They found different parts of the site were occupied progressively and that evidence suggests a significant population lived there from the late Pithouse period to the end of the Classic period.

The investigators are continuing their work after HPD reviewed their report and the CPRC approved it in 2012. Test excavations were proposed for areas with the greatest number of pottery sherds to better determine population sizes and collect more information on the Great House and possible ballcourt. Field work concluded in June 2012; analysis of artifacts continues and a third field season is anticipated for summer 2013.

Sluggish Economy Sees Archaeological Permits Decrease

Archaeological permits in New Mexico often are issued in relation to planned construction or oil-and-gas exploration and drilling. In the last two fiscal years, the number of permits has dropped from 150 in FY10 to 120 for each of the last two fiscal years.

Also, in the last two years the number of project-specific permits for construction or research decreased by nearly half from 40 permits issued in FY09 and FY10 to 19 in the last two fiscal years. The decrease is a reflection of the economic downturn and less construction in the state.

The CPRC under the State Cultural Properties Act issues permits with concurrence from the SHPO and the State Archaeologist for archaeological survey work and excavations, and excavation of unmarked human burials. General archaeological permits allow survey and limited testing and monitoring of archaeological sites on state land, usually in advance of economic activity. The unmarked graves of humans often are not discovered until construction on private or public land unearths them.

The committee also issues mechanical excavation permits for projects on private land, which totaled three in FY11 and two in FY12. Archaeological consultants planning excavation where human burials are known to exist must obtain an unmarked human burial permit. HPD notifies the Indian Affairs Department of the application and seeks recommendations for the disposition of any human remains that might be discovered. Four such permits were issued in the last two years in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Taos and Luna County.
When the Legislature agreed to help upgrade and expand the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System database of archaeological records, a more efficient, inclusive and user friendly system for retrieving cultural resource data was promised. HPD’s Archaeological Records Management Section has delivered on that pledge and further enhanced the system in the last two fiscal years since its 2010 launch.

The time required of HPD staff to enter and ensure quality control of cultural resource records in the system has been reduced by two-thirds. A promise to expand the database to include information on architecture and the built environment was kept. Today there are 1,946 State and National Register listings entered into the database and in the last two years 135 of them were updated to provide more current information.

In addition, NMCRIS’s 1,561 users now have access to 1,450 Historic Cultural Property Inventory forms. These forms are essential to consultants and others working with the system. The forms describe surveyed buildings and structures and those determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The information is essential to developers who must take into consideration cultural resources located in or near a planned project. NMCRIS now features historic linear features such as acequias, roads and bridges, and railroad lines and trestles.

Last winter, with the assistance of the Bureau of Land Management, ARMS conducted seven NMCRIS user training workshops in five New Mexico cities. The training has enabled users to upload files that included scanned copies of reporting forms that provide detailed information on cultural sites, maps and photographs.

NMCRIS continues to be the largest automated cultural resources database in the U.S. It provides tabular and geospatial information on cultural resources to qualified users, and is supported by federal and state agencies through data sharing agreements. The system is subscribed to by cultural resource contractors from the private sector, used extensively by state and federal government cultural resource agencies and is available to partnering universities as a research tool for scholars.

La Glorieta has been the private elementary Manana Day School since 1942. The hacienda was partially destroyed in the 1680 Pueblo Revolt and rebuilt in the 1690s.

ARMS feels fortunate to have a small army of volunteers who donate about four hours of their time each week to help manage the vast amount of cultural resource data that makes NMCRIS a powerful information tool. They process and enter data for archival records, and log and prepare reports and site forms under the direction of ARMS staff.

The volunteers come from a variety of career backgrounds; perhaps surprisingly, not a single one worked previously in historic preservation or archaeology. The diverse group includes a former civil engineer, retired military and medical professionals, a homemaker and an I.T. specialist. They perform an invaluable service, contributing 1,294 hours of their time or the equivalent of 32 weeks of full time work. HPD and ARMS are extremely grateful.
Celebrate New Mexico’s Historic Markers

New Mexico’s Official Scenic Historic Markers faced economic challenges in the last two fiscal years as state transportation districts focused slim budgets on public safety signage, leaving few funds for the 78-year-old program and its 680 signs about New Mexico history. But as FY13 began, several districts made strides to address backlogs, and new and refurbished signs popped up along road sides.

The number of deteriorating and vandalized markers had been increasing for several years. Many were reported to HPD by a public that finds the wood-framed markers and their vignettes of the notable, the notorious and our geographic marvels fascinating.

Several missing markers are the subject of some of New Mexico’s most notable cultural sites: Chaco Canyon, Mount Taylor and Pecos National Historical Park to name a few. All told more than 30 markers were accounted for that had succumbed to the elements, were vandalized or destroyed. Meanwhile, another 21 new markers had been approved by the CPRC but never built.

The markers were conceived during the Great Depression as a local booster program designed to attract the burgeoning number of motorists off highways and into communities. It long has operated as a partnership among the New Mexico Department of Transportation, HPD and the CPRC.

The markers appeal to New Mexico’s visitors and residents alike —most marker subjects are suggested by the public— will be celebrated during Heritage Preservation Month, May 2013.

Join HPD for the festivities.

Nineteen markers were approved or reworked by the CPRC. Here is a sampling of new markers and rewritten texts from FY11 and FY12.

The marker, John Prather, ‘Mule King’ 1875-1965, was nominated by Mike Gaba, Prather’s grandson, and is scheduled to be installed in Otero County near his former ranch. Rancher John Prather worked well with the federal government through two world wars. From his 32,000-acre ranch atop Otero Mesa, he ran New Mexico’s largest Army mule-breeding program. But in 1957, the government condemned his land for part of McGregor Missile Range. Prather rebuffed the military and remained on his ranch. His story made national headlines, and is told in the book and movie “Fire on the Mountain.”

Rodeo Intermediate Field Civil Aeronautics Authority # 57A was proposed by Dr. Bruce Thompson to help draw tourists to southwestern New Mexico and is slated for Hidalgo County. The intermediate field system, developed by the U.S. Department of Commerce, greatly increased safety in early commercial aviation. Rodeo Intermediate Field 57A was established in 1930 to enhance navigation for Standard Airlines—later TWA—from California to El Paso, and served as an army auxiliary field during WWII. Its building foundations, earthen air strips and red directional arrow pointing the way to El Paso still are visible today.

Glorieta Pass Battlefield National Historic Landmark, 1961 was re-written to elaborate on the Civil War after the previous text plate was vandalized. The new plate was installed in FY12 in Santa Fe County: The Civil War battle fought in this pass is often referred to as the “Gettysburg of the West.” Union forces dashed Confederate strategy to seize the Southwest’s major supply base at Fort Union; Colorado and California were to be next. The Texas vanguard captured Santa Fe, March 10, 1862, but after two days of battle here U.S. troops and Colorado Volunteers burned a poorly guarded Confederate supply camp and slaughtered hundreds of their horses and mules on March 28. Rebel Troops retreated from New Mexico within two weeks.

Rio Felix Bridge marker was lost more than 10 years ago during construction of a modern bridge that was built adjacent to the historic bridge. Local booster Dan Jennings worked with HPD, CPRC and NMDOT to replace the marker in time for the State Centennial, and it was dedicated in February 2012. Completed in 1926, the Rio Felix Bridge was one of the most important structures in New Mexico’s highway system. The bridge was placed across the river at nearly a 45-degree angle to increase stability during floods. Constructed with three 144-foot Pratt Truss spans, it is the longest bridge of its type in New Mexico. Bypassed in 1984, the bridge is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its design, enhancing local farming and tourism at Carlsbad Caverns.
Each year HPD chooses a state theme for Heritage Preservation Month, the annual event held in May and spearheaded nationally by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The 2012 choice was obvious. New Mexico celebrated its 100th year of statehood. Commemorating events and cultural sites from the periods before and after January 6, 2012, gave New Mexicans the chance to re-examine the diverse histories that have shaped our culture.

Communities held 34 events statewide, many of them celebrating the Centennial. The Historical Society of New Mexico themed its annual two-day conference around events leading up to and following statehood as did the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance and the state History Museum, drawing over 1,000 people to Santa Fe.

The First United Methodist Church in Albuquerque gave public tours of 100-year-old stained glass windows while in Gallup the Red Mesa Center housed a Centennial art contest.

Each year the CPRC presents Heritage Preservation Awards for outstanding achievements in architectural preservation, archaeology, heritage-related publishing and research, community planning and to heritage organizations. The awards ceremony and a reception are produced by HPD, most years at the Scottish Rite Temple in Santa Fe. In 2012, the temple celebrated the 100th anniversary of it Moorish design building with a symbolic relaying of its cornerstone, and was presented a heritage award.

Honoring the legacy of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was the 2011 theme. In some respects, celebrating the Camino was a prelude to marking the Centennial. Perhaps no other road introduced as many innovations that permanently altered the cultural and physical landscape of New Mexico than the Camino Real. For nearly 300 years, the Camino was an international “highway” bringing new language, architecture, religion, agricultural practices, textiles and food to the area.

The wagon road was traveled by thousands. During preservation month, dozens of events were held to help commemorate the Royal Road, many of them coordinated by CARTA, the nonprofit El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association, which promotes education and conservation of the Camino. They ranged from guided tours of trail sections including the infamous Jornada del Muerto to documentary film making along the trail to a scavenger hunt in Las Cruces.


**Lifetime Achievement Awards**

Jim Copeland — For a career devoted to preserving the cultural patrimony of northwestern New Mexico.

Arsenio Córdova — For preserving an integral part of New Mexico’s heritage through education, theater and music.

Arsenio Cordova (front) performs with Grupo Sangre de Cristo at the ceremony.
New Mexico SiteWatch continues to attract new volunteers, increasing membership from 305 to 402 volunteers site stewards in the last two years. Although SiteWatch began with a full time coordinator in 2002 and far fewer members, today HPD is able to allocate only part of one person’s staff time to manage the program. There has been a substantial public buy-in to this largely volunteer program.

Today there are 15 chapters covering nearly every corner of the state. Site stewards are trained by HPD and other agencies to keep an eye on local cultural sites. They check for erosion, signs of vandalism or theft and report conditions to government agencies. They not only help preserve cultural sites, but save government agencies the cost of monitoring them. The stewards help ensure our cultural heritage is there for New Mexico’s future generations and its visitors who remain a lifeblood of the state’s economy.

SiteWatch holds annual meetings for its volunteers. In FY12, it instituted a new practice giving chapter coordinators an opportunity to report membership changes, showcase achievements and describe accomplishments from the previous year. The practice will increase community investment in the program. The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service help fund the program.

Time constraints—the number of hours the HPD coordinator can devote to the program—continue to be the biggest challenge. A continued HPD presence is required for the public to fully realize SiteWatch’s potential. It was projected in 2012 that 17 chapters could be fully running, effectively covering every corner of the state. Some chapters are less active than in the past and northeastern New Mexico continues to be without a chapter.

**SiteWatch — Citizens and Government Protect Cultural Sites**

**SiteWatch Chapters**
- Central New Mexico (Albuquerque)
- Chaco Culture National Historical Park
- Elephant Butte/Caballo (Truth or Consequences)
- Jemez Mountains (Los Alamos)
- Lincoln County (Lincoln Nat’l Forest)
- Middle Rio Grande / El Camino Real (Socorro)
- North Central (Taos)
- Northwest (Farmington)
- Quemado (Reserve District, U.S. Forest Service)
- Santa Fe/Galisteo Basin & Pecos National Historical Park
- Southeast (Carlsbad/Hobbs)
- Southwest (Silver City)
- South Central (Las Cruces)
- Torrance County (Torrance County Archaeological Society)
- Valencia County Chapter

**SiteWatch Statistics**

Cultural sites monitored by site stewards numbered 520. Most, 458, were on USFS and BLM lands. The remainder were managed by the State Land Office, Department of Game and Fish, University of New Mexico, National Park Service, local governments and the Archaeological Conservancy. Two sites on private land also were monitored.
Certified Local Governments — Community Preservation

New Mexico’s eight Certified Local Governments are accredited by the National Park Service upon recommendation by HPD. To receive accreditation, the municipality must enact a preservation ordinance and establish a historic design review board to oversee its historic overlay, a specially zoned area with a unique historic character. CLGs are eligible to apply for grants each year to further their mission of documenting and inventoring historic resources, public outreach, and educating board members and staff. Diverse New Mexico towns and cities are officially designated CLGs; HPD encourages applications from those not in the program. Six of the eight CLGs completed grant projects (Lincoln County and Columbus also are CLGs).

FY 11

**ALBUQUERQUE** - $13,700
The city hosted a five-day window restoration workshop for 10 contractors, handymen and Youth Conservation Corps members who rehabilitated original wood-frame windows on an historic adobe home built in 1903. Sessions were led by nationally known preservation contractor Bob Yapp.

**LAS VEGAS** - $22,592
Three editions of the People and Places Past were published to keep citizens abreast of area preservation activities. Las Vegas also coordinated and hosted a National Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) training for New Mexico preservation professionals and board members. It hosted the 2011 annual New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance statewide conference.

**SANTA FE** - $1,672
The grant facilitated city staff and Design Review Board attendance of the NJHPA conference and CAMP.

**SILVER CITY** - $22,236
A consultant was hired to amend the Silver City Historic District National Register listing, extending its boundaries south and the period of significance to 1954. The CLG facilitated town staff and Design Review Committee attendance at CAMP. The grant funded a CLG coordinator who developed outreach programs with the Silver City Museum director, and was liaison for preservation projects in the town’s Arts and Cultural District.

**TAOS** - $21,662
An architectural historian was hired to complete a survey of 210 historic properties to enhance the Town of Taos’ historic building electronic database. Updated Historic Cultural Property Inventory forms were made available to the public through the town’s GIS mapping program on the town’s web site. The grant also funded a Historic District Acequia Preservation Plan and mapping project developed by a hired consultant. Potential acequia restorations were tailored to existing land uses and the plan presented to the Acequia Preservation Task Force. The CLG also coordinated staff and commission attendance at CAMP.

FY 12

**ALBUQUERQUE** - $15,000
An historic context, The Historic and Architectural Resources of Central Albuquerque, 1880-1970 was prepared by a consultant and listed in the State Register in 2012 (see main article).

**DEMING** - $5,000
The city hired a consultant to write the Downtown Deming Historic District nomination to recognize the importance of the city’s early commercial area. It was listed in the State Register in 2012.

**LAS VEGAS** - $21,450
The CLG published a film location guide showing where more than 90 movies and television shows have been made in and around Las Vegas since 1913. Thirty silent movies were filmed there, and the public can use the guide to schedule tours at some of the historic sites still used today by film and television production crews. Las Vegas also published four editions of People and Places Past.

**SANTA FE** - $16,500
The CLG oversaw a survey of buildings for future revision of the city’s official map of building heights in the Downtown and Eastside historic districts. It coordinated staff attendance of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions in Norfolk, VA, and hosted NMHPA’s 2012 annual statewide conference.

**SILVER CITY** - $20,090
The town organized a team of teachers, educational administrations, preservationists, and museum staff to develop a Third Grade Museum-based Educational Curriculum Pilot Program based on New Mexico’s Centennial. It focused on Silver City settlers’ lifeways, culture and building trends. The program met state public education standards for history, geography, civics, economics and language studies. The CLG presented four Centennial educational events for adults and youth and hosted monthly brown-bag lunches on statehood. It also funded the activities of its CLG coordinator.

New Mexico’s Largest City and its Commercial Development

The City of Albuquerque undertook the ambitious project of documenting its historic downtown and surrounding neighborhoods in an historic context for the State and National registers. The goal is to better educate the community about the city’s transformation from an 1880’s railroad town into a southwestern metropolis, and to facilitate registration of historic properties so home and business owners can benefit from preservation tax credits.

Albuquerque is one of New Mexico’s eight CLGs. As such, it can apply each year for federal grants through HPD to fund a variety of preservation activities, including documentation of historic buildings, structures and cultural sites. Any municipality in New Mexico can apply to be part of the program.

In FY12, the city was awarded $15,000 to develop a Multiple Property Documentation Form for its central, historic neighborhoods. The context is a broad overview of the city’s economic, architectural and cultural history beginning with the

The economic potential of Albuquerque’s designation as headquarters for the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Rail Road in New Mexico quickly was recognized by entrepreneurs who purchased surrounding land for development. The population, economy and the city grew, eventually including Old Town founded in 1706; Barelas, a seventeenth century Hispanic village; and Martineztown and Santa Barbara to the northeast.

The area boasts diverse architectural styles, including Victorian, Art Deco, Pueblo Revival, Italianate, Mid-Century Modern and Commercial. Warehouses, theaters, hotels, machine shops, retail businesses, warehouses and blocks of homes were built as the economy boomed.

The Cultural Properties Review Committee listed the context in the State Register in December 2012 and forwarded it to the National Park Service for National Register consideration. The state listing makes it possible for affected property owners to eventually become eligible for state financial incentives to preserve historic homes and buildings and increase the economic viability of the area. A National Register listing would further increase the preservation tools at their disposal.

Mesilla has long recognized the importance of preserving its past. It enacted guidelines in 1973 addressing new construction and alterations to existing structures within the town’s historic areas.

But in the last several years it became increasingly clear that the guidelines of the 40-year-old Yguado Plan were vague, and not strong enough for the town to continue promoting and ensuring preservation of its historic buildings and cultural sites.

Mesilla was awarded a $5,000 HPD small grant in FY11 to write a preservation ordinance and hired a consultant to develop guidelines. The new ordinance provides design review standards for construction within the Mesilla Historic District and for preserving cultural landscapes, including its National Historic Landmark plaza. It allows for a locally appointed design review board of professionals and citizen members and strengthens application of the Secretary of the Interior Standards to preserve exteriors and interiors of Mesilla’s significant and contributing structures.

The ordinance has a mechanism for expanding the district by surveying buildings and structures that previously were ineligible or outside its boundaries, potentially adding new resources to the historic inventory. Homes and buildings listed in the State and National registers can qualify for preservation income tax credits that significantly offset rehabilitation costs.

The ordinance was passed in FY11 and qualified Mesilla for enrollment in the Certified Local Government program. The town’s economy has been centered on its heritage for decades; becoming a CLG would enhance this focus. Mesilla would be eligible for annual grants through HPD to carry out its ordinance, survey building stock, provide training to local officials and design review board members, and create outreach materials promoting the historic town.

Mesilla was incorporated in 1848 after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo moved the U.S. – Mexico border south of the Village of Doña Ana, placing the village firmly in the United States. Some residents revolted and established Mesilla to the south as a Mexican colony in 1850. An ongoing boundary dispute between the two nations led to the Gadsden Purchase, which placed Mesilla within the U.S.

Mesilla has a rich and colorful history, some of it illustrative of the Wild West. And its cultural landscape still speaks to its long history of festivals and cantinas and influences from Mexico and Spain. Bypassed by the railroad, many parts of town do not look much different than they did in the 1800s.
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