New Mexico
Historic Preservation Division
Department of Cultural Affairs

SHPO Message
Preservation and a Tough Economy

The New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division, like most of the rest of the country’s historic preservation offices, has found itself saddled with an increasing workload, fewer staff to handle it and dwindling funding to engage in community outreach, a key component in making preservation happen at the local level.

Staff levels will not increase in the foreseeable future. We have weathered furloughs and must redirect our work to maximize preservation of resources the best we can. It is now time to reassess the way we do business in the state so that we can continue to meet our mission of identifying and protecting New Mexico’s cultural resources, its rich archaeological record, innovative architectural and engineering achievements, cultural landscapes and diverse heritage.

This is not to say the HPD has been unable to meet the challenge. In spite of a stalled economy and decreased oil-and-gas exploration, which in the past prompted a considerable amount the archaeological survey work that passes through this office, the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has more than made up the difference. Many of these worthwhile projects, which have already infused approximately $1.5 billion into the state’s economy, are creating jobs. They are helping to keep public services available, rebuild infrastructure, fund technological advancements and make possible exploration of renewable energy sources.

How does this affect historic preservation? Prior to construction, HPD
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reviews ARRA projects for potential effects on significant cultural resources. Alternative energy development—wind and solar—requires new infrastructure that affects New Mexico’s cultural landscapes and often its archaeology.

Our office in the last year has reviewed more than 300 applications for weatherizing existing homes, a small number of the total weatherization projects. HPD executed a programmatic agreement with the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, U.S. Department of Energy, the Natural Resources, state Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and the Mortgage Finance Authority to restrict reviews to projects that might affect historic resources. Our weatherization reviews were completed in less than 48 hours, and expedited home improvements that now are complete. By 2012, $26 million in DOE funds from the stimulus plan will have helped weatherize 2,788 homes for low- and middle-income families. Reviews of solar energy projects that came through the office—dozens of them for New Mexico schools—were completed within five days, as opposed to the standard 30-day review.

Other ARRA projects involve transportation. Road improvements such as shoulder work and resurfacing make up the majority, but included grander projects such as the Rio Grande bridge enhancement in Albuquerque that links bicycle and pedestrian trails. Stabilizing the historic Mexican Trestle at Cloudcroft was partially funded through ARRA, as were streetscape enhancements in Tucumcari and improving safety on U.S. 491 in northwestern New Mexico. Many projects directly involve historic resources, such as restoring a room block at Taos Pueblo.

Many of these success stories are covered in this Activities Report. We hope a look at where HPD has worked in the last two years provides greater awareness of what goes into preserving our state’s one-of-a-kind heritage. And, the next time someone asks where to go to save the historic building down the block or conserve an archaeological site, please point them in our direction.

— Jan Biella, SHPO (interim)

Save America’s Treasures

Since its creation in 1998, Save America’s Treasures has been a driving force in efforts to protect the places that tell our nation’s story. The program made possible 1,110 preservation projects in cities and towns from coast to coast, creating thousands of jobs and spurring economic development. In New Mexico, there have been 20 SAT projects that have pumped more than $4.5 million plus a dollar-for-dollar non federal match into local economies.

SAT is suggested for elimination in the upcoming federal budget. According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, it has created 16,000 jobs in the last 10 years.

SAT grants remain one of the few sources of funds for bricks-and-mortar restorations. The federal program is overseen in New Mexico by HPD.

To learn about another recently completed SAT project in southern New Mexico, and San Miguel, see page 12.
In June 2009, the Cultural Properties Review Committee made one of the most significant decisions in its 41-year history. It permanently listed Mount Taylor as a Traditional Cultural Property in the State Register of Cultural Properties.

The decision was unprecedented for the 680-square mile size of the TCP, information on sacred sites and spiritual beliefs never before shared by the five nominating tribes and passionate public debate.

The committee carefully weighed preserving the mountain for its traditional cultural qualities that some tribes date to the beginning of time with the interests of landowners and developers looking to renew uranium mining in the area. The decision came at a time when China and India were gearing up nuclear power programs and the U.S. was considering building new plants for the first time in three decades. Beneath Mount Taylor and its surrounds is the nation’s richest uranium deposit, believed to be around 341-million pounds and valued at $3.1 billion.

Mount Taylor is associated with persons and historical events significant in the tribes past. The property has yielded and is likely to continue to impart information important to prehistory and history. These historic values form criteria essential in meeting eligibility for the National Register, and were used to determine Mount Taylor as worthy of listing in the State Register as a TCP.

Areas of primary importance included Mount Taylor’s lower slopes, the mesas and guardian peaks that surround the summit and are home to shrines, trails, springs, places of offering and other cultural sites. There are more than 1,000 archeological sites with statewide significance to tribes in New Mexico and beyond its borders.

Land in private ownership was excluded as not contributing the TCP.

Mount Taylor is located near Grants in Cibola County. Portions of its surrounding peaks—called guardian peaks by the tribes—descend into the edges of town. Grants, on Route 66, once boomed with shops, restaurants bars and motels full of Native American, Hispanic and Anglo patrons, many of them well paid to mine uranium. The market dropped and the mines closed. Many businesses now sit vacant and boarded up. Local boosters believe renewed mining would give their town the shot in the arm it needs and the industry backed them saying renewed mining could create 8,000 jobs.

Both federal and state cultural resource laws come into play in uranium development. Exploratory drilling permits are presented to the state Energy Mining and Natural Resources Department for review, and the TCP designation may subsequently require an archeological permit from the committee if archeological sites on state land will be impacted by mining. Currently, two exploratory permits are pending at EMNRD for La Jara Mesa on U.S. Forest Service Lands, and Roca Honda in the Grants Mineral District, which is on state, U.S. Forest Service and private lands.

Listing the mountain in the State Register does not restrict other activities, which vary from hunting to hiking to an annual quadrathalon. Mining is allowed. Listing Mount Taylor in the State Register requires all mining activity regulated by the state and proposed within the TCP boundaries undergo a thorough review and notification process, giving tribes and other parties sufficient chance to comment on proposed activity.

Listing Mount Taylor did not go without legal challenge. Fifteen plaintiffs represented by five law firms filed suit in district court, addressing various and complex issues. A ruling is expected early in 2011.

Other Actions

The CPRC is HPD’s policy and advisory committee. All members, except the state historian, are appointed by the governor. They are recognized experts in the fields of archaeology, history and architecture. One member represents New Mexico’s Indian nations, tribes and pueblos; and one is a citizen member.

Members are charged with reviewing archeological permit applications for projects planned on state lands. The CPRC lists properties in the State Register and reviews National Register nominations. It gives final approval to tax credit projects for rehabilitating historic buildings and structures, and gives advice on loan applications. The committee decides final language for Official Scenic Historic Markers and annually presents Heritage Preservation Awards for outstanding achievements in architecture, archaeology, publications, and activities by organizations and individuals.

These activities are critical components of HPD’s mission to identify and protect New Mexico’s cultural resources. Articles on related activities are found throughout this Activities Report.
HPD manages more than a dozen programs that facilitate preservation and development locally. Our staff provides technical assistance, expertise and community outreach to businesses; tribal, local, state and federal governments; organizations; preservation groups and individuals.

Thousands of projects cross HPD desks each year for National Register eligibility determinations. Construction projects that may affect cultural resources pass through our office by the thousands and must be reviewed under federal and state cultural resource laws.

The maps on this page show the number of times HPD programs were used in each county. Often a program involved dozens or even thousands of participants in preservation activities statewide. For instance, there were 59 Preservation Month events statewide in FY10 with attendance estimated at nearly 6,000, SiteWatch volunteers monitor hundred of sites statewide, and grant and incentive programs involvement can be tenfold.

Funding Preservation

HPD funding has remained nearly flat for 3 years at approximately $1.8 million annually. We receive $745,000 in state funds, $875,000 from the federal Historic Preservation Fund and $200,000 for NMCRIS through user agreements with federal agencies.
HPD provides financial incentives for historic preservation through state income tax credits and facilitates federal tax credits at the local level through the National Park Service. The credits have at least a 3:1 return in community investment. Large hotel projects in Albuquerque significantly increased economic benefits in FY10.

The division also provides state loans in partnership with local lenders that make it possible to open new businesses in historic buildings.

Grants are awarded annually that fund invaluable documentation of cultural resources. Save America’s Treasures grants help pay for bricks-and-mortar restorations and require a dollar for dollar match, leveraging about $1.6 million statewide in the last two years.

HPD annually receives approximately $875,000 each year in federal funds for facilitating federal preservation programs in the state. At least 10 percent is provided to local governments that participate in the Certified Local Government program.

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**Preservation Financial Incentives**

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**CLG Communities**

- Albuquerque
- Columbus
- Deming
- Las Vegas
- Lincoln County
- Santa Fe
- Silver City
- Taos
In the last two fiscal years, 20 individual properties and three historic districts were listed in the State Register of Cultural Properties, recognizing 455 buildings and sites for their historic contributions to communities across the state and beyond.

Garnering the most recognition were the State Register listings of Mount Taylor in Cibola County as a Traditional Cultural Property and the decision to commemorate the objects and structures left behind at Tranquility Base from the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing. And while Mount Taylor and the Tranquility Base listings garnered international publicity for New Mexico, equally important to the state’s heritage were recognizing historic districts in Clayton, Artesia and Carlsbad, and individual listings such as the Acoma Curio Shop at San Fideland the Park Springs Ranch Headquarters in San Miguel County, the only large, working New Mexico ranch listed in either the State or National Register.

New Mexico became the second state after California to officially designate the 106 artifacts left on the Moon by the first manned lunar landing as historic. A U.S. flag, spacecraft lander, a laser ranging retroreflector that continuously measures the changing distance from the Moon to Earth, space boots and a number of items jet-tisoned to lighten Apollo’s load for its return home remain.

Efforts to recognize the items as historic began in New Mexico 10 years ago when a student asked CPRC member Dr. Beth O’Leary, a professor at New Mexico State University, if the National Historic Preservation Act could be applied to the Moon. While the National Park Service later declined involvement because no single country has authority over the Moon, individual states that played essential roles in space exploration became intrigued with preserving what was left behind with Neil Armstrong’s still visible footprints. O’Leary became something of an international authority on the topic, worked with California on its nomination and successfully listed the artifacts in the New Mexico State Register.

Listing the artifacts partly stemmed from concerns that commercial space exploration could eventually lead to disturbance of the Tranquility Base artifacts, which have not moved in 41 years because of the lack of atmosphere on the Moon. They were added to the State Register in April 2010.

Park Springs Ranch Headquarters Complex

A cattle ranch since 1860, Park Spring Ranch is situated on gently rolling terrain bisected by historic trails and a reliable natural spring near the confluence of the Pecos and Gallinas rivers. The location has made it ideal range land with short grasses excellent for livestock and wildlife. It was an integral transportation hub, and for about 10 years in the 1920s, a working dude ranch.

The main residential building is a large L-shaped, one-story stuccoed stone building whose design is influenced by original owners James Whitmore and his wife Barbarita Marquez. They combined the Northern New Mexican Hispano architectural tradition with American vernacular design patterns. Rooms open onto one another—many with fireplaces—without connecting hallways, indicating it was built incrementally with the first room nearest Gallinas Springs. The home was constructed near a hillside to protect it from harsh winter winds and for passive solar gain. There are several stone outbuildings, a barn, stables, and bunkhouses still used by ranch hands. The bunkhouse—some of its windows still have bars—served briefly as a jail when the ranch was a center of commerce.

Eighteen of its structures and sites contribute to the property, which maintains a high level of historic integrity in design, location, feeling and association. It has undergone few changes since its period of significance from 1861–1958.

The main residence was stuccoed and modified in the late 1920s and a Spanish Pueblo-Revival portal added. Owned by Park Spring Limited Partnership since 1983, 69 acres of the ranch are covered by the nomination although it is part of an 1818, 163,291-acre Spanish land grant that included eight miles of the Gallinas River. The current owners graze about 700 head of cattle, far lower than the land could sustain, in part because of drought conditions but also to preserve the land’s forage base.

Much of the nomination was prepared by the owners, members of the John Brittingham family trust, and compiled by University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning student Meghan Bayer. It was listed in the State Register in August 2008.

Acoma Curio Shop

A rare find along U.S. 66, the Acoma Curio Shop sold authentic crafts from its nearby namesake pueblo, whereas most competitors sold ersatz crafts made by a number of tribes in distant sweatshops.
State & National Registers

Built in 1916 by Lebanese immigrant Abdoo H. Fidel, the simple adobe building with 18-inch thick walls and a false metal mining front has changed little in 95 years.

The original business operated for only a few years, but the building has withstood the test of time while most roadside curios succumbed to abandonment or demolition. Fidel returned to managing the San Fidel Store, and the Acoma Curio Shop eventually located in Albuquerque across from the Hilton Hotel where it remains open for business.

The building's integrity is enhanced by its current use as a gallery located in the showroom of the old curio shop, elevating its significance above the few surviving Route 66 curio trading posts of the era. Most became history when I-40 put most U.S. 66 enterprises out of business.

The curio shop was listed in the State Register in December 2008, and added to the National Register in October 2009.

Historic Districts

Districts Established in Artesia, Clayton and Carlsbad

Clayton owes its historic look more to the railroad and architectural influences from the East and Midwest than the regional styles of New Mexico. Forty-four of these buildings form the Clayton Commercial Historic District, and all but eight were built between 1888, when the Denver Railroad arrived in town, and the 1930s. Because established transportation routes divide the town, newer commercial development is concentrated along U.S. 87 while the town's Main Street area retains its early Twentieth Century feel. Several businesses typical of the era still operate, including a barber shop, hardware store and pharmacy. The recently restored Luna theater sign, its winking moon face an eye-catcher for passing motorists, recently was restored with a legislative grant and work by New Mexico Main Street.

Carlsbad Downtown Historic District also retains the feel of a turn-of-the-century town, but features a Moderne Theater and architectural modifications from the 1950s and 1960s, prompting its period of significance to extend from 1890 to 1964. Carlsbad was named for a Czechoslovakian spring, but its early success derives from the Pecos River whose waters were harnessed into the Carlsbad Irrigation District, a National Historic Landmark. The district headquarters later became the First National Bank, was abandoned for several years and reborn in the last couple of years as the Trinity Hotel. It has become a popular gathering spot, coffee house and hotel. Nearby Carlsbad Caverns draws an estimated 600,000 visitors annually.

Tax Credits

Since New Mexico’s State Income Tax Credit for the rehabilitation of historic properties was introduced in 1984, more than 750 homes, hotels, restaurants, stores, businesses and movie theaters have benefited from one of the few preservation financial incentives available to owners of historic structures.

The program operates in partnership. HPD reviews applications and works with applicants. The Cultural Properties Review Committee then reviews proposals, either approves or declines the credit and the Taxation and Revenue Department administers the credits, which are available over a five year period.

With the current economy, HPD saw the number of finished projects statewide decline to 41 in FY10. Although with applications and projects still in progress the program recorded a total of 93 active and completed projects compared to 107 in FY09.

In Albuquerque, which boasts the most tax credit rehabs each year, there were 27 fewer projects begun or completed during FY09, and in FY10 the numbers declined again by 22. But, during FY10 the largest federal tax credit project in state history was completed in Albuquerque when $23 million was invested into the old Hilton, now Hotel Andaluz.

Santa Fe projects increased by 10 from FY08 to FY09, but declined in FY10, and statewide there were 14 fewer undertakings than in the previous year. Blame it on the economy, perhaps, and a tough housing market.

During the last 27 years, the preservation tax credit has established itself as a significant economic incentive for preserving historic buildings and restoring them as major contributors to local economies, often in the cores of our cities and towns. During a recent five-year period, state tax credits totaling $1.4 million spurred $10.3 million in construction statewide, a 10-1 ratio of economic development for every dollar invested through the credit.

The credit encourages reinvestment in existing building stock, enhancing preservation statewide while growing the economy and greening the environment by keeping historic buildings out of landfills. Historic windows and other features are rehabilitated, ultimately making older structures more energy efficient. It increases property values and upgrades downtowns and neighborhoods.

The state credit maximum is $25,000 or 50 percent of approved rehabilitation costs, providing a strong incentive to preserve historic architecture. The federal credit for commercial and income-producing properties is 20 percent and has resulted in millions of dollars in credits, primarily in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, but also has been used in Las Vegas, Clayton, Silver City and Magdalena.

Recent Notable Projects

Hotel Andaluz

One of the first hotels built by Conrad Hilton—and the one where he honeymooned with Zsa Zsa Gabor—was restored in downtown Albuquerque. Vacant for several years, the Hilton has returned to its rightful place as a popular gathering spot downtown, attracting guests as well as locals for its fine dining, open terrace bar, restored rooms and inviting atmosphere. In its hey day, the Hilton was where Depression-era Governor and Albuquerque Mayor Clyde Tingley held court with the top politicos of the day.

The $22.5-million rehabilitation qualified for $4.5 million in federal tax credits administered by HPD through the National Park Service. The hotel’s façade was carefully restored, nonhistoric windows replaced with ones matching the historic style, original guest room doors kept along with hallway configurations while rooms were enlarged to today’s standards. The lobby’s stunning vaulted ceiling and ballroom were expertly restored. HPD consulted with developer Darin Sands throughout the project down to preserving a mural by Lloyd Moylan.

Hotel Andaluz was restored in 2009. Built in 1939, the old Hilton is on track to receive LEED certification, making it the only historic hotel in the U.S. ranked at the gold level of green buildings.

Prior to the rehab, the hotel used 800,000 gallons of water per year, but now consumes 200,000 gallons. During construction, building materials were recycled, and water-efficient landscaping planted that is kept alive solely by stored rainwater. Twenty-one percent of energy costs are saved by solar heating of water, which provides 50 percent of the hotel’s hot water needs.
La Fonda

A Santa Fe landmark, La Fonda Hotel has been the site of hotels and _fondas_ for nearly four centuries. The current hotel was built in 1922 and purchased by the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Railway in 1925, making it the only Harvey House not adjacent to railroad tracks, which in Santa are a mile south of the Plaza.

The hotel and its location, at the end of the Santa Fe Trail across from the Plaza, are rich with history. The current building has many finishing touches by Fred Harvey’s primary architect Mary Colter, and Santa Fe-style co-founder John Gaw Meem. When a $2.6 million restoration was planned in 2007, the owners came to HPD for assistance with state tax credits.

The project combined work eligible for credits and elements that were not. Approved were building documentation, schematics and repair of the south portal window. Meem’s woodwork—originally finished with stain—had been re-painted with lead-based black paint that could not be removed without damaging it. HPD worked with the hotel to meet environmental standards, and a faux finish closely resembling the original 1920s stain was achieved.

An alteration not covered by credits, which are available only for work meeting NPS guidelines, was “replacing” the original flagstone floor. Thin and sitting directly on sand, the hotel agreed to protect the original floor by mounting a reinforced structural slab on helical anchors and built a new flagstone floor over it.

The hotel received the maximum state credits and benefited from expertise provided by HPD.

Hotel Parq Central

Santa Fe developers David Oberstein and Marc Bertram completed a $13.5 million transformation of the Mediterranean-style hospital building into Hotel Parq Central, a 73-room boutique hotel with a rooftop terrace and outdoor seating for the Apothecary Lounge. The hotel opened in September 2010. The project was approved for a $2.7 million federal tax credit that can be carried forward for 20 years to underwrite development costs. At a groundbreaking ceremony in May 2009, Mr. Oberstein made special mention of HPD’s assistance in clarifying regulations that accompany a complex federal tax project.

Parq Central was built in 1926 as the Santa Fe Hospital for Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway workers. It became Memorial Hospital, then sat vacant for several years. Located at the heart of the Hunings Highland Historic District, the building’s historic windows and architectural features were expertly restored; even a smokestack for the old boiler house was preserved and is accented at night with colored lighting.

La Fonda is one of the city’s oldest destinations.

Residential Projects

In Las Vegas’s North New Town Historic District, the owners replaced all plumbing to meet code, restored ceilings adding structural support beams, installed an on-demand hot water system for heating and domestic use, and repaired and repainted exterior wood trim. The project cost $90,395 and was eligible for the maximum $25,000 credit.

Brick work, stabilization, restored windows and electrical brought to code comprise this project on Miranda Street in Las Cruces’ Alameda-Depot Historic District. Expenses totaled $15,604 and qualified the owners for a $7,802 credit.

Constancio Miera is pictured in 1909 with his family at the house he built in Socorro in 1907. The house was listed in the State Register in 2009. A $34,000 plan to replace the roof, restore chimneys and windows, upgrade the electrical system and refurbish the exterior was approved by the CPDC. Current owners Robert and Denise Shaw wrote the Register nomination and plan to complete facets of the restoration themselves.

The Luna-Otero House was built ca. 1880 in return for right of way for the AT&SF railroad. Both families arrived in New Mexico in the 1530s. Currently a steakhouse with upstairs lounge, it was restored by Las Lunas residents, who repaired the entire roof, replacing sections. Window repair; refurbished floors; woodwork and marble; and new electrical, heating and cooling were completed in the $97,678 restoration and earned a $25,000 credit.

Four residences in two buildings dating to 1907 on High St. in Albuquerque were rehabilitated in two projects totaling over $122,000. Each qualified for a full $25,000 credit. Electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling, exterior work, floor replacement and a new kitchen were included in the two-year project.
Loans

—HPD’s Loan Fund Back in Business

Theater owners gives community free children’s matinees

After an 18-month hiatus for new loans, HPD’s Revolving Loan Fund for historic buildings came back in a big way in FY10. Funds became available for partnership loans with commercial lenders and government agencies to owners of historic buildings.

The premier project was El Raton Theater, whose new owners were able to upgrade electrical service, install a new heating system—it allowed the theater to remain open in winter for the first time in many years—and replace the roof and insulation. Improvements to the Moorish-style, 1930 building were possible because of a $61,000 loan. HPD provided half and the First National Bank of New Mexico in Raton stepped in as the commercial lender. The hotel is listed in the State and National registers, and the community-minded owners also are working with HPD on a federal and state tax credit project for further restorations.

El Raton now features regularly scheduled movies Thursdays through Sundays and its owners have staged live concerts, simulcast Metropolitan Opera performances and hosted open-mic nights. To express appreciation to the community for its support, they screened weekly free children’s matinees during summer to some 1,100 children and their parents. A free matinee is scheduled once a month during the rest of the year except in December when there are four. All told, 2,300 children have benefited from their generosity.

“We opened the theater mainly as a community service to get more things going on downtown,” said Ted Kamp who owns the theater with his wife and two other families. “We feel the free matinees are a nice service because during summertime kids often don’t have enough to do.”

Kamp says his wife Traci, and co-owners Neil and Donna Emiro, and Kerry and Christie Medina never expected to make money off the theater; they hold other jobs. But El Raton has attracted enough patronage to “break even,” he said, and hopefully interest other people to invest in some of downtown’s empty buildings.

Meanwhile, HPD’s program has continued to service existing loans in Las Vegas, Albuquerque and Magdalena. New loans for rehabilitations are under consideration with a business in Aztec and with the owners of the 150-year-old Perea Casa farm-house in Corrales, which was listed in the State Register in February 2010.

Loan Partners, continuation

Under the revised guidelines, two businesses in Loving and one in Los Alamos are negotiating applications with the committee.

New Mexico MainStreet and HPD worked in the last two fiscal years to make low-interest loans available to designated MainStreet communities in the state. The loans can be used on historic buildings and for improvements to other buildings and structures located within a MainStreet district.

MainStreet and HPD enlisted a third preservation partner, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which awarded them a $99,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant that boosts the balance of the MainStreet Revolving Loan Fund to $129,000, including legislative funds. A condition of the grant is that $30,000 be set aside for technical assistance to building owners and for marketing the fund.


The fund is overseen by a committee, including Peyton Yates, Yates Petroleum and Friends of MainStreet; CPRC Chairman Alan “Mac” Watson; HPD interim-Director Sam Cata; banker Lisa Dunagan; Keith Kjelstrom, N.M. MainStreet; and Rick Martinez, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Finance Administration (resigned).

The committee has made applications more user friendly and set a priority ranking with preference to underserved communities. Architectural compatibility of improvements with surroundings, and the borrower’s ability to leverage outside funds also influences loan decisions. Communities must be officially enrolled in MainStreet for loan eligibility.
Grants & CLGs

Certified Local Governments Qualify for Preservation Research Grants

Las Vegas decided to identify overarching themes in its history through photo documentation. The project produced dozens of fascinating photographs from the city’s earliest days. They show it transitioning from a wild west town to New Mexico’s earliest railroad center to a resort area that took advantage of nearby hot springs and provided luxurious accommodations at monumental hotels.

Through a $7,500 grant, the CLG in partnership with the Friends of the City of Las Vegas Museums and Rough Riders Memorial Collection obtained limited publication rights from the Palace of the Governors Photo Archives in Santa Fe and Denver Public Library. It produced high-resolution scans of 133 original photographs and prepared public exhibits to promote local heritage preservation.

The project identified multiple themes, including “Boomtown of Gallinas,” “Vaqueros y Pastores,” “Glory at Las Guásimas: The Saga of the Rough Riders,” and “From Territory to Statehood.” The town’s movie-making history was explored, and early gelatin silver prints by James Furlong from the 1870s and 1880s show the arrival of the railroad.

The grant inspired additional digitization of over 100 photographs from the vaults of Our Lady of Sorrows Church. The CLG wrote in a report to HPD that although CLG funds were not expended on this portion of the outreach, the grant inspired the Friends of the Museum to “look in our own ‘backyard’ … to document and help preserve a local treasure.”

Grant Documents Zuni Traditions

The Zuni recount a tale of emerging into this world through a hole in the Grand Canyon. Another account puts the location further down the Colorado River. The message is a metaphor—all life, including human, derives from the earth—and is one of several traditional beliefs documented through an ethnographic study conducted by the Zuni and partially funded with a $3,000 HPD grant for completion of the Mount Taylor State Register nomination that designated much of the mountain a Traditional Cultural Property.

Zuni cultural advisors ranging in age from 37 to 96 were interviewed by the Zuni Heritage and Historic Preservation Office, the grant recipient. In addition, 21 Zuni males and 18 Zuni females from 17 clans including the Frog, Tansy and Sun/ Crane provided ZHHPO information. They revealed migration accounts from places of emergence by trails—the trails, too, are symbolic, a religious idea—with place names that create a bond among the Zuni people and to their environment. The accounts help explain Zuni tribal customs and organization patterns.

The individuals shared deeply held beliefs on traditional Zuni uses and values pertaining to Mount Taylor, such as sacred sites, springs, gathering areas, plants, mineral and natural cultural resources. The information was used to develop the nomination and lend credence to designating the 11,301-foot mountain as worthy of TCP status. Their beliefs were presented with accounts from Acoma Pueblo, Navajo Nation, Laguna Pueblo and the Hopi Tribe, which form the nomination.

Mount Taylor was listed in the State Register in June 2009 after two years of input by more than 800 pueblo members.

New Mexico’s eight Certified Local Governments are accredited by the National Park Service upon recommendation by HPD. They meet requirements, including establishing a mandatory local preservation ordinance to protect resources, a preservation commission to oversee an historic overlay, and maintaining a process of inventorying historic resources. CLGs are eligible for grants each year for activities that relate to their mission.

The following CLG’s also received grants for preservation activities in FY09. FY10 grants have not been awarded due to changes in the funding cycle.

Santa Fe surveyed resources to broaden its vast architectural inventory, updating and enhancing a database of historic buildings and sites. The CLG provided preservation training for city staff and Historic Design Review Board members at the annual New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance conference and the National Alliance for Preservation Commissions Forum 2010 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. $11,895

Silver City resurveyed the Silver City Historic District, and began revisions of the Silver City and Black’s Addition districts to expand boundaries. It also funded the activities of its part-time CLG coordinator. $21,367

Taos wrote new architectural standards that enhance building design review standards and promote historic preservation. The CLG hired consultants Community By Design to prepare three nominations of rural landscapes to the National Register and present them to the public. Outreach materials are available at www.taosgov.com under Planning. $14,025

Zuni Salt Lake was placed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Most Endangered List in 2003. In 2010, then-Governor Bill Richardson signed an executive order calling on HPD to help list the lake in the National Register, and the state engineer to work with the pueblo to ensure the lake’s survival.
Grants & CLGs

HPD utilizes part of its federal funds for grants to communities and individuals for planning and researching historic sites, Register nominations and archaeology. Our Small Grants have helped fund documentary films, publications, walking-tour-and-guide books, and the annual New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance conference, which will be held in Las Vegas in April 2011.

In 2008, the state began providing preservation grants, but funding shortfalls ended the program. The crunch made FY10 one of the few years HPD was unable to fund federal grants. Look for federal grants to return in FY11.

Our Lady of Light Church is one of Lamy’s last links to its bustling days as an AT&SF trainstop. An HPD grant may lead to preserving it.

State Funded Grants FY09

**Carlsbad Historic District** $6,000
Carlsbad MainStreet prepared a State Register nomination of the city’s historic commercial area, and received a Heritage Preservation Award for the effort in 2010.

**Norman L. King Stadium Conditions Assessment** $5,000
Casa de Cultural, a nonprofit community based organization that supports cultural and educational activities in Las Vegas, assessed the stadium’s structural elements.

**New Mexico State University** $5,000
HPD contracted with NMSU so it could provide professional engineering services to New Mexico communities assessing the condition and integrity of their historic buildings and structures.

Federally Funded Small Grants Administered by HPD

**La Sala de Galisteo Conditions Assessment** $7,000
Cornerstones Community Partnerships, a nonprofit that preserves adobe architecture, prepared the assessment, which will be used to restore the historic dance hall and community gathering place.

**Our Lady of Light Nomination** $3,066
Historian Diane Williams prepared a State Register nomination of Our Lady of Light Church in Lamy. Considered a rare example of a Mission-style church in northern New Mexico, its architecture was inspired by the AT&SF Railway. The CPRC added the church to the State Register in 2010.

**Lion Statue Condition’s Assessment** $4,000
Las Vegas MainStreet worked with consultants to preserve the angelic-looking lion that was part of a fountain built in 1896. Damaged and fragile—its tale and lips are missing—the lion was removed and stored. A replica was installed in Lion’s Park. Planning is underway to cover cost estimates of $18,000–$150,000.

**Acequia Junta y Cienega Historic Context Statement** $3,000
Former CPRC member and historian Juan Estevan Arelano prepared an historic context for the northern New Mexico acequia near Embudo Station. Traditionally maintained, it has irrigated crops and orchards for centuries.

**New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance** $3,000
The nonprofit held its annual statewide conference in Albuquerque attended by 90 people. Highlights included sessions on history through puppetry to show how communities can integrate sustainable practices to preserve Hispanic cultural landscapes. Mount Taylor as a cultural landscape and preserving New Mexico ranches also were discussed.

San Miguel Chapel – $200,000

**Save America’s Treasures from page 2**

At least 300-years-old, San Miguel Chapel is one of the oldest churches in the nation and is the center of the country’s oldest continuously inhabited residential neighborhood, the Barrio de Analco in Santa Fe. The building speaks to Spanish Colonial and Native American heritage. Built of adobe and plagued by moisture problems, the structure is at risk.

Work will continue on San Miguel for at least another year. HPD is part of an advisory committee with NPS and City of Santa Fe that oversees the project. SAT will fund repair of roof supports and a new drainage system to take moisture away from the building.

The nonprofit Cornerstones Community Partnerships specializes in restoring adobe architecture. It is the project lead and SAT grant recipient. Cornerstones has leveraged additional funds, but says it will cost more than a million dollars to complete the work.

Save America’s Treasures

**Fort Stanton - $210,000**

Fort Stanton is considered an architectural treasure in New Mexico. In FY09, it became our newest state monument and the following year, a rehabilitation was completed of the historic Administration Building—originally the junior officers’ quarters. It now is a museum that tells the fort’s 155-year history, a visitor center and offices.

Part of the work was funded with an SAT grant awarded to Fort Stanton, Inc., while stabilization was completed with a match and legislative funds totaling $1.4 million. HPD provided regular reviews during the planning and construction phases of the project, working closely with the Property Control Division/GSD.

The restoration was exemplary with original windows and transoms removed, rebuilt and re-installed. Structural elements were reinforced and details inspired by late Nineteenth Century military architecture were preserved. Today the museum and a gift shop are open and welcome visitors free of charge, providing a clear vision of a fully restored Fort Stanton.
Cultural Resources Online

Once the nation’s premier cultural resource database, the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information Systems has regained its edge at the forefront of digitally archived heritage information.

Revamped and enhanced, the database operated by HPD’s Archaeological Records Management Section captures data when consultants and others using the system enter it, eliminating the need for staff to manually copy it from paper. A staggering backlog of unentered data caused by an antiquated system that went dark more than once will be eliminated, giving the website a currency it has not held in years.

For the first time, NMCRIS will not be primarily focused on archaeological data, long available to the state’s archaeologists. It will include HPD’s architectural data and properties in the State and National Registers. Architects, historians, and other cultural resource professionals can access tabular and geospatial information about these properties, as well as linked documents such as photographs and scanned nomination forms. A New Mexico State University summer intern, a volunteer and staff have digitized the majority of HPD’s 1,950 Register nominations that date back to 1966 so they can be a part of the new service.

A major overhaul of the online map services uses the latest ArcGIS® Server technology to provide a truly interactive online map. NMCRIS users have the ability to add activity and cultural resource data directly to the map by digitizing features on-screen or by uploading shapefiles—files that use points to delineate an object—created on their desktop GIS applications. By posting map features themselves, map-service users have access to current data, greatly enhancing the map service as a tool for making informed cultural resource management decisions.

The upgrades were possible because of a $560,000 legislative appropriation in 2008 to upgrade the 16-year-old system, which began as various forms of hand-written information in the 1920s. Much of the newer data originates with economic development including oil-and-gas exploration, infrastructure improvements such as road building, construction and power-line upgrades. The information is used in all stages of project planning and review. NMCRIS is essential in designing projects to avoid impacts to cultural resources.

Because ARMS’ staffing levels have been stagnant for years, workloads grew rapidly and technology failed to keep up with new innovations. NMCRIS became outdated. Although 167,000 archaeological sites were available on the old system, increased economic development and a cumbersome data entry process left it out of date.

The new NMCRIS has a completely different look and feel. To help users make the transition to the new system, HPD and ARMS developed web-based educational videos explaining commonly used features and provided downloadable help links. The new system will help streamline economic development statewide and support the Department of Cultural Affairs’ mission to “preserve, foster and interpret New Mexico’s diverse cultural, scientific and artistic heritage for present and future generations.”

Tribal Historic Preservation Offices

There are 102 THPOs recognized by the National Park Service, a number that has jumped from approximately 20 in 1992 when enabling federal legislation was enacted. New Mexico has seven THPOs. Three—Jicarilla Apache, and the pueblos of Pojoaque and Tesuque—formed between 2008 and 2010. They joined Navajo Nation, Mescalero Apache Tribe and Zuni Pueblo.

THPOs assume the same functions of a SHPO, including identifying properties eligible for the National Register, directing and conducting cultural resource surveys, assisting agencies engaged in preservation and providing public information, education and training.

While THPOs need not consult with HPD on most projects, the division has partnered with them and most pueblos and tribes not designated by NPS on many projects in the last two fiscal years. These range from Register nominations, ARRA projects, historic markers, cell towers, airline flight paths over tribal lands, road projects and expansion of rail service.
Heritage Preservation Month
—Honoring Sacred Places & Downtown New Mexico

In the last two years, HPD promoted vastly different preservation causes—but with similar goals—by honoring “Sacred Places” in New Mexico and commemorating “Downtown New Mexico” revitalization success stories.

Sacred places such as churches, moradas, shrines, certain cultural landscapes and landmarks, and downtown commercial development, at first glance are near opposites. But both bring people together to create a sense of community, in one case spiritual and the other for enjoying the camaraderie felt at a special event or in a darkened historic movie palace.

Downtowns across the state have made tremendous strides in recent years toward resuming their rightful place as community centers. New Mexico MainStreet and dozens of local MainStreets in Artesia, Farmington, Silver City and Clayton, to name a few, use historic preservation to enhance downtown revitalization. Silver City has several streets of restored buildings built in the late 1800s and into the middle 1900s that house thriving businesses, drawing visitors from New Mexico and afar. HPD celebrated the achievements in 2010 with a poster of Silver City’s rail depot whose demolition sparked a local preservation movement. Many Heritage Preservation Award winners were recognized for efforts in cities and towns across the state.

The Sacred Places theme of 2009 grew out of listing Mount Taylor in the State Register. More than 50 individuals and organizations submitted photos of places and buildings they identified as sacred ranging ranged from Blue Lake near Taos Pueblo, chapels in Tularosa Basin, Tomé Hill in Valencia County, Zuni Salt Lake, Pueblo Bonito at Chaco Canyon, Jemez National Monument, and mountains, grottos capillas and a morada. HPD chose photographer Kirk Gittings’ image of what is believed to be the oldest morada in New Mexico. The poster won a 2010 national award Built between 1820 and 1850, the morada was restored after vandals partially destroyed it in the 1990s. The Brothers of the Pious Fraternity of Our Father Jesus the Nazarene have practiced their faith there and maintained the morada since it was built.

2009 Award Winners

Town of Bernaíllo Youth Conservation Corps for the exemplary rehabilitation of the Sena Mortuary Building into the New Mexico Wine Museum at Bernaíllo.

John R. Roney for an outstanding career using innovative approaches to archaeology, research and public outreach.

Salmon Ruins Museum and the Center for Desert Archaeology for a dynamic partnership that resulted in the curation of artifacts and publication of research that provided new insights into Chaco Culture.

Phillip A. Young for 35 years dedicated to the protection of cultural resources and engaging the public in historic preservation through SiteWatch.

Tularosa Basin & Coe Ranch for an outstanding mitigation publication that preserves the Territorial and early statehood history of the Tularosa Basin.

Sunstone Press & James Clois Smith, Jr. for preserving the literary heritage of New Mexico through an outstanding series of publications.

Richard Ellenberg and Rad Acton for citizen advocacy that has brought consensus to the process of preserving the historic fabric of Santa Fe.

Santa Fe Plaza Cultural Landscape Report for the contributions of numerous individuals and organizations toward developing the definitive historical guide and planning document for preservation of the Plaza, a National Historic Landmark.

Otero County and the Red Brick Building Foundation for the county’s commitment to the preservation of historic architecture and the foundation’s grassroots efforts to save the Red Brick Schoolhouse in Tularosa.

“Keep ‘Em Flying” for preserving the history of the Hobbs Army Airfield with an outstanding mitigation publication.

Paso Por Aquí for two decades of preserving Nuevomexicano literary traditions in an outstanding series of historic and new publications.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Gifford and Joann Phillips, The Chamiza Foundation for their philanthropy and dedication, which has helped preserve New Mexico pueblo communities so they provide a model lifeway for this and future generations.
SiteWatch

The need for volunteer “eyes and ears” is greater than ever. Economic downturns cause some to resort to outside sources of income, and New Mexico’s cultural resources can become prime targets of illegal acts for substantial profits.

HPD’s SiteWatch program was founded on the belief that preserving New Mexico’s cultural heritage is essential to our state’s and nation’s knowledge and quality of life. New Mexico has long used its cultural resources and patrimony to attract visitors and new citizens. To help protect these resources SiteWatch was created in 2003 and continues to attract volunteer site stewards who monitor cultural sites throughout the state. The program conserves and protects cultural properties by coordinating efforts by state and federal agencies, citizens, and landowners with site stewards. The often live in the community they assist, and serve as monitors and docents of local cultural resources.

Led by an HPD program coordinator at HPD, the state had trained 275 volunteers and put them to work monitoring and protecting sites in FY08. The coordinator retired. A new coordinator, already on staff, took over SiteWatch on top of existing duties. Because this program has captured public interest, the number of trained volunteers grew to 305 by the end of FY10.

SiteWatch volunteers have saved federal and state government thousands of dollars in salaries and mileage by investing their time and resources in protecting New Mexico’s patrimony. The stewards are invaluable to their communities and have helped HPD, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, New Mexico State Parks, and many others keep watch over sensitive areas in the Gila, San Juan Basin, Lincoln County, middle Rio Grande and other parts of the state. Interest in the program grows and more trainings are scheduled for 2011.

HPD has received a federal grant to help fund the coordinator position. Agencies have pledged funds, and others have been asked to sit at the table to discuss potential partnerships.

A Valencia County family during a training session. SiteWatch’s ranks have consisted of older community members, but in the last year more high school and college students, some even younger, have enrolled and are helping monitor cultural sites.

2010 Award Winners

Morgan Hall for efforts by Laharca, Inc., City of Deming, Kells + Craig Architects and Barbara Zook to preserve Deming’s city hall and architectural heritage.

Coronado School for efforts by Karen Alarid, Tiffani Lucero, Edith Cherry to preserve a central city elementary school and Albuquerque’s architectural heritage.

Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society for its multi-faceted approach to preserving a National Historic Landmark.

Artesia MainStreet for working to preserve an historic residential neighborhood with a State Register nomination.

Ronnie Jackson for his leadership in preserving cultural resources important to the history of Artesia.

Louis “Pinky” Robertson & Jimmy E. Smith for recording and saving the legacy of Techado Spring Pueblo.

New Mexico History Museum for innovation by Dr. Frances Levine, John McCarthy and Roy Woods to blend new architecture adjacent to a National Historic Landmark.

Carlsbad MainStreet for working to preserve historic downtown by completing a State Register historic district nomination.

Clayton MainStreet for preserving the integrity of the town’s original commercial district with a State Register nomination.

Trinity Hotel for the work of Dale Balzano, Derek Balzano and Michael Moore to preserve architectural heritage in the adaptive re-use of the Carlsbad Irrigation District building.

Fort Stanton Administration Building for work by Cherry/See/Reames Architects, Crocker Ltd, Fort Stanton, Inc. New Mexico State Monuments, Huitt-Zollars. Martha Perrins-Dallman to restore one of the fort’s most significant buildings and giving it a new use.

Fort Stanton Officer’s Quarters for Atkin Olshin Schade Architects’ stabilization of key buildings, which will lead to their restoration, at the newest state monument.

Santa Fe Railyard for community preservation planning by numerous organizations, including the City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe Farmer’s Market Institute, the McCune Charitable Foundation and others, to revitalize the city’s historic railyard district.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Susan Berry for 36 years dedicated to preserving historic Silver City and invaluable leadership at the Silver City Museum.

Robert Mishler for dedicating 45 years to preserving Las Vegas and establishing New Mexico Highlands Anthropology Department.
Historic Markers

—Women’s Marker Project Complete

Where before there were none, now there are 64 Official Scenic Historic Markers commemorating the contributions of women to New Mexico history.

The Historic Women Marker Initiative captured the public’s imagination. Every county in the state and most pueblos and tribes submitted nominations of women who left their mark on New Mexico, beginning in 2006 when the Initiative began and when it ended at the close of FY10.

Those honored illustrate the breadth of women’s activities and historical contributions. They range from the famous, such as Georgia O’Keeffe and singer Louise Massie Mabie, the “Original Rhinestone Cowgirl” who lived in Hondo Valley, to local heroes like Sally Rooke, a telephone operator who saved countless lives when in 1908 a wall of water rushed toward Folsom. She stayed at her post warning as many residents as possible and lost her life in the flood. Women who journeyed the Santa Fe Trail, established formal education in the state, writers, advisors to presidents and others who set precedents in law and medicine were honored.

Dedication ceremonies for the markers often drew more than 100 family members and friends to honor the women whose lives touched so many. They packed San Antonio Catholic Church in Medanales to honor weaver Doña Agueda Martinez who continued to “dance on the loom” past age 100. Her weavings are in the Smithsonian. The life of National Endowment for the Arts fellow, Tewa language preservationist and storyteller Esther Martinez, was celebrated at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo.

The Initiative’s success was possible because of a strong partnership among the New Mexico Women’s Forum, HPD, CPRC and New Mexico Department of Transportation. It was funded by the 2006 Legislature, with First Lady Barbara Richardson serving as honorary chairperson.

Official Scenic Historic Markers

New Mexico began installing roadside markers in 1936. Today there are more than 660 markers commemorating important events, persons—the notorious and the honorable—and geographic marvels of the state.

In the last two years 96 markers, in addition to those originating with the Women’s Initiative, were addressed by HPD and the CPRC. Many were existing markers whose placards were damaged or illegible from the elements, providing an opportunity to re-research history and in most cases update it. Many new markers were suggested by citizens wishing to commemorate a part of their communities’ histories.

Revisited markers included those commemorating Pecos National Historical Park in San Miguel Co., the agricultural village Las Trampas—re-written in Spanish and English—in Taos Co., Elephant Butte Dam in Sierra Co., Paraje de los Brazitos in Doña Ana Co., ghost town Riley in Socorro Co. and A.M. Curley Traynor Highway in Grant Co.

The marker program began during the Great Depression to promote local tourism in light of the growing number of motorists taking to the road. The idea: erect signs with interesting histories to entice travelers to stop in town, explore sites and boost local economies.

Many states continue to operate historic marker programs. In New Mexico, it has remained popular for more than 70 years. HPD receives a steady stream of e-mails from people who make a point of visiting them, nominate new ones or map out trips using their GPS coordinates. A couple start-up firms have used our marker database for smartphone applications, keeping the program current.

Sadly, there is a backlog of unbuilt markers and ones needing repairs due to funding shortfalls, which have limited NM DOT to maintaining public safety signage.

Marker Highlights

First Car

One of the newest, but unbuilt, markers tells the history of the first automobile in New Mexico. R.L. Dodson bought his steam-powered Locomobile, then considered one of the finest cars in production, in Denver and drove south; Albuquerque was his destination. Along with a company representative he traversed treacherous Raton Pass, arriving in the border town five days later on November 30, 1900, to much fanfare. Media accounts reveal a mixed reception in Albuquerque where the vehicle scared horses and at one point was banned from city streets.

For two years, Mr. Dodson owned the only car in town. But as the “fad” caught on, soon there were dozens and then thousands of them on
Increased economic activity on lands controlled by the state, counties and municipalities and an enhanced awareness of permitting requirements by archaeological consultants has led to a steady rise in the number of permits issued by the CPRC.

Roadwork, oil-and-gas exploration, mining, construction, and even building a Spaceport are among projects HPD reviews for permits, often because work can potentially affect an archaeological site or other cultural resources.

The CPRC is empowered by state law to issue permits with concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Officer and the State Archaeologist for survey work, archaeological excavations and excavating unmarked human burials. In FY09, 137 permits were issued, 149 in FY10. Ten years ago most permits were for road projects where archaeological sites were impacted. Now they also include new construction, development, oil-and-gas exploration and restoration projects.

The nature of the economy also has contributed to the increase. In FY10, the number of out-of-state firms applying for permits on state lands rose.

In FY09, of the 137 permits issued, 56 were for general archaeological investigations, 53 firms received both the general archaeological and Annual Unmarked Human Burial Excavation Permits and eight received solely the Human Burial Excavation Permit.

Twenty-two project-specific permits were granted to survey or excavate archaeological sites, including university-sponsored archaeological field schools and construction projects.

In FY10, 149 permits went to 55 firms seeking archaeological permits, 66 firms for a general and annual burial permit, and three for Annual Unmarked Human Burial Permits. The CPRC also issued three Individual Burial Permits and 18 project-specific permits for archaeological sites.

HPD administers the program and reviews applications to ensure they meet professional standards established by the CPRC.

A list of permittees—firms that employ archaeologists, historians, anthropologists and architects—can be found on HPD’s website. Permits issued over the last two years totaled 386.

Permitted projects included data recovery at an Elephant Butte archaeological site, archaeology at Cerrillos Hills State Park in Santa Fe County, excavations of a recorded archaeological site in Luna County, investigations in the Permian Basin in southeastern New Mexico, a data treatment plan on an archaeological site at El Segundo Mine in McKinley County, excavations at Blackwater Draw archaeological site by Eastern New Mexico University and archaeological data recovery at New Mexico Spaceport in Sierra County.
Reviewing Projects

World Monument Fund, ARRA & HPD at Taos Pueblo

In the summer of FY09, Taos Pueblo and HPD organized a tour of one of the nation’s oldest continuously inhabited communities for the World Monument Fund. The organization was searching for sites to include on its 2010 Watch List, which every two years focuses international attention on dangers and threats faced by the most significant cultural heritage sites on the planet.

Dating back 1,000 years by most accounts, many of the buildings at Taos Pueblo—especially those in the original room blocks—appear today much as they did when first constructed of earth, water and straw. The pueblo provided an up-close look at a six-room block of housing. Its collapsed walls and roof had rendered the structure uninhabitable for decades, convincing the New York-based nonprofit that something should be done.

WMF placed Taos Pueblo—a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1992—on its Watch List, and in FY10 provided $393,512 to restore the multi-family structure. Increased visitor traffic and growing public curiosity about the pueblo’s history and practices, and development pressures from growth of nearby Taos were also reasons for placing it on the list. The pueblo received additional support of $475,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds secured by the Indian Energy and Economic Development Program of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Funds had been slated to build new tribal offices but about one-fourth was set aside for restoration. Involvement of federal funds kept HPD in the picture as primary reviewer of the project.

Today the multi-family room block is being rebuilt with new adobe blocks, finished with mud plaster and trimmed with hand-built wooden doors and windows. Pueblo residents and youth were trained in the traditions of building and preserving adobe architecture, much of it passed down by tribal elders through generations for centuries. HPD reviewed planning for the project, has observed the site on several occasions and monitors ongoing reconstruction, slated to be completed in spring 2011.

Stimulus Money Puts New Mexicans on the Worldwide Web

ARRA awarded approximately $40 million to five telecommunication providers to upgrade Internet service—in some cases providing high-speed access for the first time—in eastern, southeastern and northwestern New Mexico.

The Recovery Act helped make broadband Internet service available at schools, libraries and state offices in Roswell, Raton, Springer, Las Vegas and Tucumcari; digital service was provided to some customers for the first time. Service upgrades are underway in northwestern New Mexico and on Navajo Nation lands. Media reports highlighted the plight of students in some of these areas who travel more than 40 miles each way for Internet access so they can complete homework, which increasingly requires high-speed access. The same is true for persons seeking employment as more and more job postings are available only through the Net and an increasing number of businesses require applications submitted online.

HPD took an active role in the process. The National Historic Preservation Act requires the division to review federally funded projects in New Mexico, and new fiber optic cables and other telecommunication upgrades affect historical and archaeological sites. The division reviewed 13 applications. Five won stimulus funds—ENMR-Plateau, Baca Valley Telephone Company, Navajo Nation Tribal Utility Authority, Western New Mexico Telephone Company and Penasco Valley Telephone Cooperative. They requested assistance from HPD and the Department of Information Technology to expedite the projects since construction must begin within six months of funding and be completed inside of three years.

New Mexico Department of Transportation set up a broadband task force to review projects developed by ENMR-Plateau and PVTC. Representatives of HPD, DoIt, the State Land Office, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the state office overseeing ARRA funds helped the companies meet deadlines.

HPD took the lead in writing a programmatic agreement for the ENMR-Plateau project, which provides upgrades to schools, libraries and state offices in the eastern and southeastern New Mexico. Agreement was reached just three months after the task force met and allowed construction to begin while cultural-resource surveys were completed at construction zones. A similar agreement is being written by the federal Rural Utility Services for PVT to provide broadband and digital service.

Cable will be lain across lands controlled by federal, state, county and city governments and on private property in Otero, Chaves, Lincoln and Eddy counties. HPD reviewed cultural surveys for both projects. Baca Valley decided its project was small enough and opted out of the presentation, while Western Telephone scaled back and will not use stimulus funds. Navajo Nation has a Tribal Historic Preservation Office that will oversee the tribe’s project.
Reviewing Projects

Doña Ana Village Center Restored

Restoration and adaptive re-use of the De la O Saloon and the so-called “pink buildings” in Doña Ana Village State and National Historic District as a museum, exhibit space and visitor center were completed in 2010. Anchoring the project is a large community plaza that will be used for village fiestas, community events and a weekly farmers’ market with local produce from nearby vendors. Within the plaza is a new, fully accessible restroom that is compatible with the restored historic buildings.

A collapsed saloon wall was rebuilt with new adobes and its walls resurfaced with mud-and-lime plaster. A tongue-and-groove ceiling and vigas were replaced in-kind.

HPD visited the village as part of required site reviews several times in the last two years, working with state Sen. Mary Jane Garcia, Doña Ana County, the local preservation society and project architects to ensure state preservation standards were met.

Work was reviewed under Section 7 of the state Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act, prompted by use of $1-million in legislative funds secured by Senator Garcia to complete the project. A Lifetime Achievement Heritage Preservation Award winner, the senator has devoted much time and energy to restoring the once dilapidated village, which retains much of its nineteenth Century feel. Doña Ana was one of the earliest southern New Mexico communities settled along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro.

Transportation in New Mexico

Federal economic stimulus funds allowed work on new and stalled transportation projects statewide. In some counties, such as McKinley and San Juan, tens of millions of ARRA dollars were allocated to road projects. HPD and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices reviewed and provided comment on a number of them, which were as varied in their nature as they were in their scope of work. New Mexico Department of Transportation was the lead agency on the projects.

U.S. 491 was nicknamed “Devil’s Highway;” it first was designated U.S. 666 as the sixth spur off of its parent road, Route 66 in 1926. The New Mexico stretch has had a notoriously high fatality rate since. U.S. 666 was the only highway to pass through each of the Four Corners states, is a major trucking route with heavy traffic and connects the Navajo Nation to vital services in New Mexico. Sixty-nine miles of two-lane blacktop will become a divided four-lane highway using $31 million in ARRA funds, creating much needed jobs and better economic opportunities in an economically distressed part of the state. The northern half the project is complete. The Navajo THPO reviewed the project under Section 106 and in the course of work a prehistoric Ancestral Pueblo community was discovered along with a Navajo Hogan from the 1920s and 1930s.

Albuquerque has a complex and interesting network of bicycle and pedestrian trails. It was enhanced by a new bicycle bridge built along Interstate 40 that provides a central crossing point across the Rio Grande—safe from speeding automobile traffic—and links two trail systems. Fifteen years in the making, the “I-40 Trail and Rio Grande Crossing” received $5.4 million in ARRA funds with the City of Albuquerque contributing $1.3 million. Building the bridge took one year and employed 200 people. Because the project was planned far before funds were available to complete it, HPD reviewed it in 2006, finding no adverse impact to cultural resources. The new bridge opened in August 2010.

The Mexican Canyon Trestle is more than 100 years old and part of an abandoned rail line. It first was used to transport lumber and then passengers to and from Cloudercroft until 1947. In the last 10 years serious deterioration caused it to lean and potentially collapse. HPD has assisted restoration efforts since 2007 when it concurred with Lincoln National Forest that restoration plans would cause no adverse effect. The Village of Cloudercroft successfully sought funds from NMDOT, the legislature and Federal Highway Administration. The village received additional ARRA funds of $249,747 toward the $3.4 million project. The 59-feet high, 323-feet long trestle was restored in 2010 using many of the original timbers, and then separated from approach banks for public safety. Work is underway on an interpretive center and overlook explaining the engineering marvel.
The last surviving structure at the Nogal Mesa Ranger Station in the Sacramento Mountains is a barn, once part of a complex of buildings built by the Civilian Conservation Corps for Lincoln National Forest. Because the 76-year-old barn was isolated and in disrepair, it was suggested by the national forest that it be preserved by moving it piece-by-piece to a new location.

Instead, because of a recommendation by HPD during a standard Section 106 review in 2009, the barn was left in place as per guidelines in the National Historic Preservation Act. Staff quarters were sold and moved to Ruidoso in 1976, leaving the barn as the lone reminder of a time when rangers worked primarily on horseback.

HPD enlisted the help of site steward Gary Cozzens, of the Lincoln County Historical Society and Diane Prather, a heritage program manager for the forest. Together they wrote a Youth Conservation Corps grant that enabled high school and college students to learn new skills by restoring the barn over the summer, an experience they highly valued and said may lead them to pursuing careers in forestry or fire prevention. Their work helps give the barn a new life, potentially as an interpretive center, engine crew site or office space for summer interns. Ms. Prather said a “green center,” including a people’s garden with solar applications and rain catchments, also is under consideration.

Preserving the barn in its original location adds to the forest’s heritage legacy as home of Smokey Bear, the Mexican Canyon Trestle and several recorded archaeological sites noted for their trade wares such as black-on-white and black-on-red pottery, and above-ground room blocks that date to the Twelfth Century.

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Youth Restore Last Ranger Barn in Lincoln National Forest

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