The gilded theater glimmered and the stars shone brightly on a packed house beneath the atmospheric ceiling of the Scottish Rite Center for the Cultural Properties Review Committee’s 43rd annual Heritage Preservation Awards.

More than 275 people attended, perhaps the largest ceremony in the awards’ history. The show began with a message from DCA Secretary Veronica Gonzales about the importance of preservation as the backbone of New Mexico’s heritage tourism industry. SHPO Jeff Pappas followed with introductory remarks focusing on the breadth of work represented in the 2015 awards. From there, CPRC Chairman Rick Hendricks presented the first four Lifetime Achievement awards.

Several audience members commented on the diversity of the backgrounds of this year’s recipients. The awards, they said, illustrate that preservation is not the purview of any one socioeconomic group, profession or trade. It happens in remote places like Wagon Mound where volunteers worked three weekends to restore three storefronts, and at internationally known destinations such as the Georgia O’Keeffe Home and Studio where a brother and sister team have curated and preserved a National Historic Landmark for more than 40 years. Here are some of the highlights of the awards presented May 8.

Gertrude Boyer accepts the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award honoring the memory of her brother, Clarence Fielder, former CPRC member from Veronica Gonzales.

Vick Riley Evans speaks on behalf of her father, Dr. Carroll Riley, also accompanied by his wife Brent to accept the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award.

Phil and Rosanne Archuletta won the Individual Achievement Award for writing Women Marked for History and preserving Official Scenic Historic Markers.

Members of the Wagon Mound Façade Squad with family. Receiving Individual Achievement Awards were Rene Rosa, Theresa Carmody & Priscilla Martinez.

Charles Strickfadden (l) nominated the Fort Union Ranch/Union Land and Grazing Company, presented by Joseph Miner, for a Heritage Organization award for preserving the cultural landscape formed by the ranch, Fort Union National Monument and the Santa Fe Trail.

Janet MacKenzie won the Archaeological Heritage award for her work at Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project.
Jose La Cruz-Crawford and Charles Hawk accept the Heritage Publication Award for *Molino de los Duranes*, a conditions assessment of the grist mill in Taos County.

Edmund Saucedo accepts the Citizen Advocacy “Rita Hill” Award for raising awareness of Lordsburg’s historic architecture.

Gloria Kahn, third from left, with members of the La Sociedad Folklorica de Nuevo Mexico, which won a Heritage Organization Award in its 80th anniversary year.

Jake Barrow won one of five Lifetime Achievement Awards and is shown with fellow recipients Rory Gauthier, Agapita Lopez, Belarmino Lopez and Mike Marshall.

Patricia Crown received an Individual Achievement Award. She discovered cacao residue from Mesoamerica in cylinder jars at Chaco Canyon, establishing trade between the two cultures happened more than 800 years ago.

Paul Namkung and Chris Spanovich saw beauty in Tierra Amarilla’s 1884 ramshackle adobe mercantile and restored it as a labor of love. They won an Architectural Heritage Award for their work and have transformed the once dilapidated building into the heart of their community.

Dr. Rick Hendricks, CPRC chairman, at the podium and members l-r Christopher Purvis, Douglas Boggess, Ron Toya, Reginald Richey and Dr. Matthew Bandy.

Architectural Achievement recipients included, l-r, Laura Chancellor and Martin Kuziel, of Conron & Woods Architects; Paul Namkung and Chris Spanovich; Shelly Fort for her daughter Whitney, of Lovington’s Obtainium Gallery; Stan Peña and Dr. Joseph Sheppard, Western New Mexico University, for restoring Light Hall.

Hollie Barnett and Cameron Barnett, of the Harmon Barnett Morris, P.C., won the Urban Design Within an Historic District award for the adaptive re-use of a 1940’s warehouse in the Clovis Railroad Historic District into the firm’s office.

Belarmino Lopez and Agapita Lopez. Their award was recognized in U.S. and Canadian media.

Gertrude Boyer, her daughter Marcia, SHPO Jeff Pappas, former CPRC member Beth O’Leary and retired NMSU anthropology professor and Hobart Boyer.

*(awards photographs by Karla McWilliams and Harvey Kaplan)*

**HERITAGE PRESERVATION MONTH**

Heritage Preservation Month also saw distribution of more than 1,200 copies of the 28th annual poster. It illustrates the theme, “preserving cultural landscapes that inspired art created in New Mexico.” The image was shot by HPD’s Robert Fletcher at Ghost Ranch and depicts Chimney Rocks, which was painted by Georgia O’Keeffe. The poster was designed by Tom Drake, who coordinated this year’s ceremony and related events with an enthusiastic staff that included Nicole Ramirez-Thomas on PowerPoint; the reception committee of Pilar Cannizzaro, Michelle Ensey and Lynnis Jacks; and contributions from virtually every staff member who completed nominations, greeted guests, made nametags, put us on Facebook to the tune of more than 50-new likes, shot photographs assisted
with mailings and took on tasks at the ceremony that made this one of the CPRC’s most successful awards shows.

**NEW IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Springer, was built in 1938 by a mostly German congregation in a style popular throughout the Midwest. It is among the first churches built in the Gothic-Revival style in New Mexico, and was listed in the National Register on February 23.

Mesilla Park Elementary School also was listed in February. The school is notable for its brick construction and its numerous additions built between 1916-1963 as the agricultural valley saw rapid growth because of its pecan orchards and other crops, and the growth of New Mexico State University Mesilla Park Elementary began as a one-room adobe school house in 1901.

Increases to the boundaries of the Raton Historic District were listed in the National Register on April 30. The district was originally created in 1977 and over time a few historic buildings were lost, but many more became eligible for inclusion because of they reached the 50-year threshold. Twenty-one additional buildings from the 1920s to the 1960s that were added to the district. The small city is notable for fine examples of the following architectural styles: Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, Italianate, Decorative Brick Commercial, Art Deco, Mission and Spanish Colonial architecture.

Steven Moffson is HPD’s State and National register coordinator.

**SHPO APPOINTED TO NATIONAL BOARDS**

SHPO Jeff Pappas recently was appointed to two important preservation boards. In February he was appointed to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers. His first official meeting will be in July in Salt Lake City.

Beginning in September, Jeff begins a three-year term on the National Council on Public History Board. The body is made up of academics representing the National Park Service, corporate archives and museums and other professional working in the public sector. Jeff will be the sole State Historic Preservation Officer on the board. The field of public history applies history to real-world issues. His first meeting is in Louisville, Kentucky. He’ll focus on producing publications for the organization.

**PRESERVE AMERICA YOUTH SUMMIT IS JUNE 2**

HPD, NPS and Conservation Legacy are among the sponsors of a youth summit that will be held at Aztec National Monument, June 2-5. HPD provided a grant to help Preserve America fund the summit, which will see youth learn about the cultural heritage of Pueblo people, to explore nationally significant properties, study new approaches to preservation and archaeology and provides an opportunity to interact with other students, national and state leaders. Working on the summit are Deputy SHPO Jan Biella and archaeologists Michelle Ensey, Andy Zink, Andy Wakefield, SHPO Jeff Pappas and DCA legal counsel Erin McSherry. The summit fosters stewardship of historic sites by students and encourages community preservation.

**TRIBAL SUMMIT**

Tribal members and preservation experts will meet mid-June for a tribal summit HPD is funding through a $59,000 grant the division received from NPS. The grant also will help fund development of a
smart phone and tablet app to facilitate documentation of historic buildings, structures and sites. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation based in Washington, DC, is one of several participants in the summit. Deputy SHPO Jan Biella and archaeologist Andy Wakefield are HPD leads on the project.

**STATE REGISTER NEWS**

St. John’s College became the first college campus in New Mexico to be named in its entirety as an historic district. The Cultural Properties Review Committee approved a nomination written by HPD Register coordinator Steven Moffson and St. Johns’ library director Jennifer Sprague at its April 10 meeting. The district is notable for its Territorial-Revival buildings erected from 1964-1973, association with famous persons including John Gaw Meem, who donated 260 acres of land for the campus and influenced its design, landscaping by Garret Eckbo and art and furnishings by Alexander Girard.

The Grants-Milan Flight Station also was listed in the State Register of Cultural Properties. It played a significant role in aviation from 1953-1973, greatly improving air-traffic safety. The listing follows a conditions assessment of the facility that won Heritage Preservation Award for the Cibola County Historical Society and Jonathan Craig, of Kells + Craig Architects.

Additional listings were the Gutierrez-Hubbell House in Bernalillo County, an historic home, trading post and post office that now is a cultural center in Pajarito on the Camino Real; Santa Fe’s 1928 Delgado Street Bridge, notable for its concrete deck-girder design and for being the oldest vehicular bridge in the city; and K’uuyemugheh, one of the earliest Pueblo settlements in the northern part of the pre-Columbian Southwest notable for its great kiva that served a large surrounding community.

**HISTORIC MARKERS**

In the early years of the Cold War, Walker Air Force Base in Roswell was the U.S. Air Force’s largest Strategic Air Command. Established as Roswell Army Air Field in 1941, it was renamed after fallen New Mexico WWII hero Brig. Gen Kenneth Walker in 1948. The Enola Gay was housed there after the war, and the air field was involved in the so-called Roswell Incident of 1947. Marker coordinator Tom Drake worked with Juliana Halvorson, of the Walker Aviation Museum, to develop the history, ultimately leaving out any reference to UFO’s. A dedication of the marker is planned in September when the Walker family gathers for a reunion at the base. The CPRC approved the marker in February.
An Official Scenic Historic marker commemorating a WWII German POW camp in Albuquerque’s South Valley was installed at the Bernalillo County Rail Runner Station in April. The camp for prisoners transferred from a POW camp in Roswell originally was located near the present-day Albuquerque Zoo but strong anti-German sentiment during the war resulted in it being moved outside city limits. The marker was proposed by Sarah Jones, who is writing a screenplay based on her research of POW camps in New Mexico.

HPD, THE LEGISLATURE AND CONGRESS

A major overhaul of New Mexico’s state preservation tax credit stalled in the 2015 legislative session. But HPD plans to renew efforts in 2016, encouraged by the bill’s passage by the House Ways and Means Committee and support, if not passage, from the Finance Committee. Proposed changes would have made the credits entirely refundable where currently they can only be taken as a credit on state income taxes over five years. Also, historic buildings in MainStreet districts would have benefited from a credit of up to $285,000, substantially more than the $50,000 maximum allowed only for buildings in registered Arts and Cultural Districts. Tax Credit coordinator Harvey Kaplan and SHPO Jeff Pappas worked closely with New Mexico MainStreet to develop language for the bill.

National Preservation Advocacy Week was the first week of March. Due to weather-related travel delays in New Mexico, former SHPO Katherine Slick, who is based in Washington, D.C., filled in for Jeff Pappas. She reports that New Mexico’s delegation and staff value historic preservation. Senators Heinrich and Udall introduced bipartisan legislation to provide grants for colleges and universities with high enrollment of Hispanic students so they could engage in historical and cultural projects.

COMING UP AT HPD

- The CPRC meets June 12, at 1 p.m. Location to be announced.
- Preserve America Youth Summit at Aztec National Monument, June 2-5.
- SHPO Jeff Pappas, Deputy SHPO Jan Biella and archaeologist Bob Estes visit Fort Bliss, May 21 and 22.

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