



# News Release

---

State of New Mexico  
**Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs**  
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 15, 2011**

**CONTACT:**  
Tom Drake  
505-827-4067

## **Martinez Property in Cañon near Taos, St Catherine's Indian School and State Register Changes**

*New Review Committee Members Meets for First Time*

The state Cultural Properties Review Committee listed a Hispanic residential complex built on property included in a 1796 land grant in the State Register of Cultural Properties. It also determined that much of the St. Catherine's Industrial Indian School campus in Santa Fe comprises an historic district.

New CPRC members attended their first meeting June 10, the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs said today. The committee also delisted a Depression-era relocation farm that had fallen into serious disrepair in Bosque Farms south of Albuquerque, and removed a building heavily damaged by fire from the Truth or Consequences State and National Historic District.

### **Martinez Property**

Buildings on the Martinez property date back to the 1820s, and while the structures have been altered over time, they retain integrity in design, workmanship and setting. The committee also felt it is significant that members of the Martinez family were associated with the property for approximately 200 years, and that it is representative of New Mexico settlement patterns. The property was one of six original small parcels that were part of the original Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant located near Taos Pueblo.

"The buildings date through the 1940s and represent the vernacular evolution of a property owned for close to 200 years by the Martinez family," Terry Moody, HPD Register coordinator told the committee.

Members of the family continued to live on the property through 1998 as a multi-generational household, according to census and other records. The layout of the property around a central courtyard is typical of Hispanic architecture from the period and found throughout New Mexico.

Landscape developed over time with the introduction of heritage trees, and the acequia's original path bordering the property never was altered.

Carmen Acosta Johnson, who is the second owner of the property with her husband Dale, attended the meeting and said they did not necessarily buy the property for its long history.

"It was cheap enough that we could afford it and we've been rehabbing it ever since," she said.

Its history was researched by Santa Fe-based preservation consultant Shannon Papin who traced descendants of the original owners using FaceBook. From information gathered online, she telephoned all 20 Denver telephone book listings for Alvarado, to find a descendent of the original owners. Emily Alvarado was able to provide oral history that helped ascertain the Martinez family likely donated part of their land to establish the Nuestra Senora de Dolores-Cañon Chapel— across the street— which is historically significant to the community.

### **St. Catherine's Industrial Indian School**

St. Catherine's is significant for its architecture, its role in the education of Native Americans and for its association with wealthy Philadelphia heiress Katherine Drexel who established the school and later was canonized.

Though many campus buildings were listed in the State Register in 2001, the nomination needed to be clarified to identify the property type as an historic district and to give the district a boundary. The CPRC voted that the buildings that form the campus and the historic cemetery comprise the district and celebrate the school's 101-year history. The contributing buildings were landmarked by the City of Santa Fe in 2006.

The campus is dominated by the 1887 adobe, three-and-one-half story Main Building, thought to be the tallest earthen building ever built in New Mexico. The building can be seen from numerous Santa Fe vantage points. Its thick adobe exterior walls are fortified by buttresses and several interior adobe walls form high-ceilinged, smoothly plastered rooms, many with marble fireplaces. The "Our Lady of Guadalupe of the Americas" fresco painted by Edward O'Brien surrounds one of them in a reception room.

Interested parties addressed the committee to provide their views of the campus and the boundaries for the historic district. One suggestion was that the athletic field be included in the district as recognition of the importance of athletics to the student community. The campus is partially bordered by the Veterans Administration Santa Fe National Cemetery, which is looking for adjacent land for expansion.

### **New CPRC Members**

For two of the current five members, it was their first official meeting. Douglas Boggess, an archaeologist from Albuquerque is serving as the committee's historic archaeologist; and Ronald Toya, a member of Jemez Pueblo is the tribal member. There are nine positions on the committee with four of them vacant. Vice-Chairman Rick Hendricks, the New Mexico State Historian, serves by statute; and Clarence Fielder, of Las Cruces is the member specializing in history. Reginald

Richey, of Lincoln, is the architectural history member. Governor Susana Martinez announced June 15 that George Bolling, of Elephant Butte, was appointed to the committee as the architect member. He is the president and sole proprietor for George H. Bolling, Architect, a company he has owned for 17 years. Bolling holds a B.F.A. with an emphasis in Architecture from the University of New Mexico.

#### **Removed from the Register**

- The committee agreed that the Woodall Farmstead in Bosque Farms in Valencia County had fallen into disrepair and lost much of the historic integrity that made it worthy of listing as a Depression-era cultural property. It was one of many such small farms built with federal funds to resettle farmers from Taos and Harding counties to Bosque Farms as part of a New Deal program that provided assistance to the rural poor and migrant workers. The Village of Bosque Farms plans to purchase the property from the Woodall estate and turn it into a recreational field. Both the village and the estate petitioned HPD to remove the property from the State Register.
- The committee determined the former Buckhorn Saloon, grocery and apartment located in the Hot Springs Bathhouse Commercial and Main Street Historic District in Truth or Consequences no longer could be included as one of the district's approximately 150 contributing buildings. Severely damaged by a fire in 2005, the roof is partially collapsed and the building suffered significant water damage. Some of the adobe walls were partially demolished. HPD surveyed the property in May, finding few salvageable materials. The property owner hoped the committee would allow additional time to explore ways to fund the necessary repairs. The committee deliberated and concluded that the integrity of original materials, workmanship and design had been lost. While not apparent from the street facade, the city condemned it as unsafe and a health hazard in 2010 and requested it be designated as noncontributing.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Tom Drake, Public Relations  
 Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs  
 Bataan Memorial Building  
 407 Galisteo St., Suite 236  
 Santa Fe, NM 87501  
 (505) 827-4067  
[tom.drake@state.nm.us](mailto:tom.drake@state.nm.us)  
[www.nmhistoricpreservation.org](http://www.nmhistoricpreservation.org)