



New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
Department of Cultural Affairs
www.nmhistoricpreservation.org

Monthly Report – January 2015

ARTISTS HOME & STUDIO NEWEST NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING

The home and studios of Hondo Valley-based artists Peter Hurd and Henriette Wyeth are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service announced the listing December 10, 2014, when it also included a boundary increase of the Bandelier National Monument Archaeological and Historic District in the National Register.

The Wyeth Hurd property was listed in the State Register by the Cultural Properties Review Committee in October following two years of research and writing by NMSU anthropology student Brittany Porter. She worked with retired NMSU Professor Beth O'Leary, a former CPRC member, on the nomination and with HPD's Register coordinator, Steven Moffson.

Wyeth was known for painting the portrait of President Lyndon Johnson and for his portraits of WW II soldiers that appeared in *Life* magazine. Wyeth was a child protégé known for her portraits and still-life paintings.

The Bandelier district was updated and expanded from the original 1970 nomination and a 1985 updated listing to reflect growth of the monument, and to include cultural properties that reached the 50-year threshold for inclusion in the National Register.



Brittany at the gate of the 40-acre property. Today it is maintained by the artists' son, Michael. Brittany earned her master's degree in December.

WALKER AIR FORCE BASE

A proposed historic marker and the planned demolition of several buildings at the city-owned Roswell International Air Center have HPD staff reviewing the history of the former Strategic Air Command's Walker Air Force Base. The Walker Aviation Museum applied for an historic marker to convey some of the history of the Cold War-era base. HPD historic marker coordinator Tom Drake has been working with the museum's Juliana Halvorson to develop the multi-faceted history of what started out as Roswell Army Air Field in 1941. Walker became the nation's largest SAC headquarters shortly after WW II until it was shut down in 1967. The base was protected by Atlas Missiles in 12 silos which comprised the nation's first Intercontinental Ballistic Missile system. Walker Air Force Base gained notoriety when a UFO allegedly crashed at nearby Corona in 1947. Since 2012, the air center has been home to two record setting free-form parachute jumps that broke the sound barrier.

MORE ROSWELL AVIATION HISTORY

HPD architect Barbara Zook entered pre-consultation with the city over the planned demolition of the Terminal Building at the Roswell Auxillary Army Airfield, later Roswell Municipal Airport. Current talks center on documenting the building with a Historic American Building Survey before it is leveled. After ceasing operations as a terminal, the building became a youth center but now is vacant. The former airfield is now a park and a golf course.



MORADA MEETS MODERN ARCHITECTURE



Moradas once dotted the northern New Mexico countryside. The Morada de San Antonio in Rio Hondo Valley near the village of Valdez has not been used by the Penitente Brotherhood since ca. 1958. But the building still stands along a stretch of country road, surrounded by private, separately owned property.

HPD is assisting Taos County under provisions of the state Cultural Properties Act to determine if building a two-story semi-circular house adjacent to the morada would affect the historic integrity of the morada. Built in 1894, it has 18-inch adobe walls and was documented in the 1960s by architectural historian Bainbridge Bunting. He was noted for his expertise in adobe architecture,

particularly in New Mexico. The morada was listed in the State Register in 2000. Architect Barbara Zook is project lead.

GRANTS

HPD has entered a new round of grants for 2015. Coordinator Karla McWilliams reports 19 applications were received by the January 12 deadline requesting \$457,000 in funds. Proposed projects range from a \$41,132 request from Cornerstones to assist the congregation of the San Jose de Gracia Mission Church in Las Trampas with stabilization and preserving the building's exterior using traditional means including mud plaster to a \$3,017 request to prepare a National Register historic district nomination of downtown Carrizozo. Also on the list is \$49,998 to stabilize buildings on the D.H. Lawrence Ranch—several are in danger of collapsing—in northern New Mexico proposed by the architectural firm Atkin Olshin Schade.

In addition, four Certified Local Governments—Taos, Silver City, Deming and Las Vegas—requested \$87,519 for projects that range from restoring the Kit Carson Historic Cemetery to funding a structural assessment of the East Las Vegas City Hall Building to preparing a schematic design for work on Morgan Hall in Deming.

Last year HPD approved \$305,625 in grants for 16 communities and another \$74,002 in CLG grants. CLGS must enact local ordinances to protect historic buildings and infrastructure in a designated area and establish an historic design review board to enforce provisions and provide preservation expertise.

LEGISLATION

The 60-day, 2015 legislative session began Tuesday with Governor Susana Martinez presenting the legislature her State of the State address. Included in her proposed budget are revisions to the preservation tax credit program that would increase the credit for business owners in historic MainStreet districts, Arts and Culture Districts or other downtowns. The credit would be refundable. HPD and New Mexico Main Street have worked together to develop revisions.

CULTURAL ATLAS

DCA presented a progress report on the development of a Cultural Atlas website and app that incorporates National Historic Landmark nominations archived at HPD. All 48 NHL nominations have been scanned and consideration is being given to expanding historical data to include national monuments in New

Mexico and national and state historic sites. AmeriCorps intern Eli Menchaca and DCA Projects & Planning manager Doug Patinka presented a mock-up of the eventual site, which will feature 360-degree views of NHLs, summaries of their historic significance and access to National Register nominations.

FACEBOOK

HPD is on FaceBook and represented by pages about the division and the Building Creative Communities Conference. The HPD page has 142 “likes” while BCC has 316. Approximately three-fourths of HPD FaceBook fans live in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Cruces and Taos, and 58 percent of them are women and 39 percent men. HPD Grants coordinator Karla McWilliams set up and administers our page.

COMING UP AT HPD

- HPD has begun planning for Heritage Preservation Month 2015. A theme will be decided in the next week and persons contacted to submit nominations for Heritage Preservation Awards and community events. If you are considering a nomination or an event please contact Tom Drake, who is coordinating events. Preservation Month is celebrated nationally and in New Mexico throughout May when HPD issues a poster, the Cultural Properties Reviews Committee presents Heritage Preservation Awards and communities celebrate their local heritage.
- The CPRC meets February 20 in the Old Senate Chambers of the Bataan Memorial Building.
- Culture Day at the Legislature is all day, February 24. HPD will have an interactive display featuring the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System’s database where people can ask to locate certain cultural sites on a computer. HPD will have small adobe building blocks for creating structures, posters, postcards and publications to distribute. All DCA division set up displays and tables off the Rotunda as part of the legislative session.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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