

Historic Preservation Division

Weekly Report

September 17, 2008

Ed. note: Vote for Saturday RailRunner service for the HPD Archaeology Fair, September 26-27. Visit HPD's website: www.nmhistoricpreservation.org and show your support.

BIA Responds to SHPO Letter on Santa Fe Indian School (Santa Fe County)

SHPO Katherine Slick has received a letter from BIA regional Director Larry Morrin that sets out to clarify the question of whether compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act was applicable in the demolition of at least 20 buildings at the Santa Fe Indian School. Through ferreting out what the letter is intended to communicate, Slick has come to the conclusion that the administrative agency did not transfer the property, rather Congress mandated the SFIS property be held in trust by a legislative act with the following language: "All right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land, including improvements and appurtenances thereto, described in subsection (b) are declared to be held in trust for the benefit of the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico." If the BIA had transferred the property, compliance with laws and attendant regulations, such as NEPA or NHPA, applying to the administrative action would need to be performed. The 106 provision of NHPA is directed to actions of federal agencies, not the actions of the Congress. Therefore, the BIA had no compliance responsibilities.

Morrin said in the letter that he would facilitate a meeting between Slick and the 19 New Mexico pueblos that run the school. Of 24 buildings determined eligible in a BIA survey, only four remain standing following the late July demolition. In discussion with the Advisory Council, it may be possible to collect information from BIA archives that would document through original drawings, photographs and commissions, the structures and attendant artwork.

The *Santa Fe New Mexican* ran an editorial, September 16, labeling the demolition "something unseemly" and done in haste to lay waste to historic architecture and "murals for the ages," and in total disregard for community concerns. The paper editorialized that the demolition scorned the NHPA, and urges the school's alumni, many of whom it claims are upset by the demolition, to step forward to save the remaining buildings and even restore some of those destroyed.

Archaeology Fair (Valencia County)

At least five Albuquerque school classrooms plan to visit HPD's fifteenth annual Archaeology Fair next week in Los Lunas. The fair will be held September 26 and 27 at Daniel Fernandez park, just blocks from the RailRunner station, making it the first fair available by mass transit. New to the fair is a Matanza, or traditional Hispanic pig roast, which will be held Saturday afternoon. Although traditionally the pigs are slaughtered and roasted on site at a Matanza, one of the fair's organizers, Mark Rosenberg, said no blood will be spilled at Daniel Fernandez.

In conjunction with the fair is the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro conference, which is headquartered at the Transportation Center in Los Lunas. Numerous speakers are featured including Richard Melzer who will sign copies of his recently published book *Famous and Unseal Gravesites in New Mexico History*. Professor Francisco Ocho-Rodriguez, of the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez, will present a paper focusing on a location along the Royal Road where the Moors and the railroad came together.

ARMS Tour a Hit (Santa Fe County)

Whether it was an early map of Camel Rock drawn on linen paper by early archaeologist Harry Mera, or the possibility of conjuring up any New Mexico historic resource electronically from multiple search fields, ARMS was ready to show its stuff on September 24. The entire Lab of Anthropology staff participated in providing HPD'ers based in the Bataan a

memorable tour of the building, its remarkable files and an overview of the section's plans for the future. Next Gen and innovations underway that were funded under a \$560,000 legislative initiative will radically change access to the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System database and make the information much more accessible to a far greater number of users. ARMS hosted the tour in an outreach gesture prompted by a staff retreat HPD held in August to encourage improved communications within the division. ARMS's Bill Doleman, Cordelia Snow, Scott Geister and Louanna Haecker led various parts of the tours.

Mera, by the way, won a contest in 1925 to design the state flag based on his familiarity with the Zia sun symbol found at Zia Pueblo on a 19th century pot during archaeological field work.

Preservation Month Goes to School; (Santa Fe County)

Postcards and posters celebrating New Mexico's World Heritage Sites for Preservation Month 2007 will make their way into a Santa Fe classroom. DCA Human Resources Director Anthony Legits requested the materials for a report his son, Christopher, is making before his seventh-grade class at St. Michael's High School. Christopher's report is on Carlsbad Caverns, one of three World Heritage Sites in New Mexico.

Historic Roads and Commercial Archaeology (Bernalillo, McKinley, Torrance counties)

Two international conferences devoted to historic roads and the iconic architecture and signage associated with them drew approximately 260 people to Albuquerque last week. SHPO Katherine Slick was part of a panel of experts discussing a proposed AASHTO guidance for the preservation, maintenance and improvement of historic road corridors during the opening plenary session of the Preserving the Historic Road conference. HPD co-sponsored the conference, providing staff support for sessions and organization of the conference. John Murphey, Tom Drake, Dorothy Victor, Shalie Gasper and Harvey Kaplan all contributed to documenting the conference and making it memorable for all who attended. They were joined by local National Park Service staff and the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

Murphey led tours to Gallup, Mountainair, Socorro and other destinations for the Society for Commercial Archaeology conference. He says one of the highlights was when 70 conferees on a tour stopped in Lemitar to resurrect Papa Burger, who had blown down in the wind., With combined muscle they struggled to upright the eight-foot-five fiberglass figure who at one time advertised A&W's roadside restaurants.

The conferences were held from September 17 through September 21.

Socorro Civil War Graveyard makes the News (Socorro County)

Acting State Archaeologist Jan Biella, met with Socorro Police Chief Lawrence Romero on Tuesday in his office to discuss alternative handling of human remains from a Civil War grave in the town. Now on private property, the unmarked graveyard has come to HPD's attention numerous times in the past. The Mountain Mail newspaper covered the meeting and quoted Biella, who said a preferred option would be to find suitable land for the property owners so the graves could be preserved and the site designated historic.

The article also quoted former State Archaeologist Glenna Dena, referring to a 2004 interview she gave in which she said she'd been interested in the graveyard for eight years. Coffins have been broken and remains come to the surface when activity occurs on the land.

Tibetan/Chinese Preservationists Visit HPD (Santa Fe County)

Two directors of the Tibetan Culture Promotion Association were in Santa Fe, September 19, to examine the preservation of indigenous cultures, language and the arts. They met with SHPO Katherine Slick and Grants Coordinator Shalie Gasper to discuss HPD's role in carrying out state, tribal and federal preservation laws. Trying to explain the nuances of our federal system overlaid by treaty rights is always challenging and especially so with an interpreter in 45 minutes or less, Slick said. Gasper was able to provide a sense of the system from the tribal point of view. The visitors, from Tibet/People's Republic of China, five-day trip was organized by the U.S. State Department and includes meetings with the Pueblo of Pojoaque, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Wheelwright Museum, IAIA and Cornerstones.

Cedarvale's Population Jumps Tenfold (Torrance County)

Cedarvale's population is 3. But on the afternoon of September 18, its numbers jumped to nearly 40 as the descendants of the town's original homesteaders gathered to celebrate the tiny burg's Centennial and dedication of an Official Scenic

Historic Marker. Cedarvale's boom started in 1908 and relied on rainfall to germinate pinto beans that thrived for about 20 year's in central New Mexico's rich, sandy soil. But the rains stopped, the cisterns dried up, and the men moved away to find work to support their families while the wives stayed home and wore stiff-billed bonnets to keep the gritty wind and the harsh sun off their faces while they hoed the last crops . But in 1916, everything seemed a go, and the townsfolk pooled their resources to build a school of monumental proportions that still stands, although the pit gym added by the WPA in 1936, crawls with rattlesnakes, a cornice of the grand window bank that dominates the Romanesque façade is about to cave in, and the tongue-and-groove ceilings have collapsed onto the once polished wood floors that now see rain more often than they do human footsteps.

A town granddaughter, Gail D'Arcy worked closely with HPD, initially to list the building, but soon was advised a scenic marker would be the best route to honoring the school's legacy. She invited more than 100 people from all over the country and 40 of them showed up for an afternoon of memories, fine food and an official dedication presided over by HPD Scenic Marker Coordinator John Murphey and documented by Tom Drake, Public Relations. Baishram Hindi, whose Lebanese grandparents homestead in nearby Duran, was so taken with the event that he's invited HPD to visit his town, site of New Mexico's last hanging, to establish a marker there. His father and namesake, at 90, took quick, firm steps up to the large marker cut the ribbon and then Gail pulled off the bow.

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