



New Mexico Historic Preservation Division  
Department of Cultural Affairs

[www.nmhistoricpreservation.org](http://www.nmhistoricpreservation.org)

## Monthly Report – June 2015

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### HIT THE ROAD

Summer's here and the time is right for getting behind the wheel and exploring New Mexico. Let history be your guide on these road tips.

Raton Pass, New Mexico's first automobile gateway, was established as the state's newest historic district by the Cultural Properties Review Committee in June. The district includes the steep Goat Hill section of the Raton Scenic Pass Byway that overlooks the small city, and a series of dramatic hairpin turns that give today's drivers an idea of what the first motorists experienced driving from Colorado to New Mexico in 1908. The district includes 1.5 miles of asphalt and gravel roadways, passes through mostly public lands—much of it a park maintained by Raton—and is accessible by passenger car. The road was built by convicts and is significant for the role it played in transportation, engineering, politics, and government.



The RATON sign is one of 12 contributing structures in the district. At left is the "Star of Bethlehem" first displayed as a Christmas decoration. Both structures were built in the 1930s. photo: John Murphey, who wrote the National Register nomination.



R.L. Dodson, seated on left, drives through Albuquerque in his Locomobile.  
Photo Courtesy: UNM Library

Before ascending Goat Hill, stop at the Raton Visitor Center to read the historic marker about the Locomobile, credited as the first automobile driven into New Mexico via an unimproved wagon road that became Raton Scenic Pass Byway. Robert L. Dodson drove the Locomobile, a steam powered car built in the U.S. from 1899–1929, from Denver to Raton in five days in 1900. There are reports the vehicle was initially banned from Albuquerque streets because it scared horses.

The CPRC also approved two new historic markers that will stand side by side near Baca Campground in the Capitan Mountains. The **Raton Ranch—Baca Campground** marker was nominated by Lincoln National Forest archaeologist Mark Gutzman, who attended the June 12 CPRC meeting. He researched the area the National Archives to determine an accurate history of the site.

## THE ROAD (from page 1)



Based on descriptions Lucy Shaw is likely the tall woman standing in the rear. Seated in foreground is Ramoncita Gurulé , who attended three separate sessions at the camp. Her daughter, Polly Chavez, has written several articles about Camp Capitan.

Mr. Gutzman and HPD historic marker coordinator Tom Drake uncovered information for the second marker, **Lucy Lepper Shaw**. She helped develop the 22-acre site of the current campground, building it into one of the largest and most successful girls' camps under the New Deal's National Youth Administration program. Two-thousand unemployed young women and girls from disadvantaged families in New Mexico and Arizona attended Mrs. Shaw's Camp Capitan to learn skills as diverse as building tin chandeliers and wall sconces for White Sands National Monument, sewing flags for every school in New Mexico, colcha embroidery, stenography, housekeeping and masonry. Lucy Shaw was the first women's investment counsellor at New York-based Banker's Trust Co., but drew national attention for turning the abandoned and partially ransacked CCC camp for young men into what First Lad

Eleanor envisioned when she advocated for employment camps for young women. The girls' camp closed at the beginning of World War II and was re-opened as an internment camp for Japanese railroad workers and their families from Clovis.

The site and its twentieth-century history have been found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Lincoln National Forest is interpreting the site and working toward preserving a chimney built by the girls and a handful of other features from the three camps that preceded Baca Campground.

Susan McSween Barber the "**Cattle Queen of New Mexico**," was commemorated on a marker installed earlier this year. She figured prominently in the Lincoln County War, which claimed the life of her first husband, Alexander McSween, and later her home that was burned to the ground by the Santa Fe Ring. With her second husband she began the Three Rivers Ranch that eventually grew to 1,158-acres and grazed 8,000 head of cattle.



Restoring the trestle in 2010.  
HPD file photo.

**The Mexican Canyon Trestle**, the largest remaining wood-constructed trestle of the Cloud-Climbing Railroad, is featured on a rebuilt, rewritten, and relocated marker now installed at the Sacramento Mountains Museum in Cloudcroft. Also nominated by Mr. Gutzman, the marker celebrates the trestle's restoration and the history of the rail line that brought tourists—many of them from El Paso—up the steep incline to Cloudcroft to escape the summer's heat.

The CPRC revised the **Buffalo Soldier Hill** marker text after the Cochran County Historical Society reported it vandalized in early June. Located on a remote stretch of N.M. Hwy. 114 in Roosevelt County one mile west of the Texas border, the hill was the site of a tragedy. During an 1877 expedition to force Kwahada Comanche warriors back to their Oklahoma reservation during a drought, the soldiers became lost and went 96 hours without water, encountering hardship and death among their ranks at the base of a 50-foot rise in the barren, high plains. The incident and a restored marker were commemorated June 27 in Morton, Texas, at the annual Last Frontier Heritage Day celebration.



The Susan McSween marker is on N.M. Hwy. 349 in Lincoln County near White Oaks Cemetery where Susan was buried in 1931.  
photo: Mark Gutzman.

Thanks to the quick work of the committee, HPD, New Mexico Department of Transportation District 3 and P&M Signs, new text and map plates were installed in time for the heritage event.

Just south of Albuquerque lies the tiny community of Pajarito, established in one of 69 Spanish land grants in New Mexico that were upheld by the U.S. government. A revised historic marker approved by the committee addresses this early history and the establishment of the Gutiérrez Hubbell House, which was a post office, mercantile and home to James L. Hubbell, a prominent merchant, and his wife Juliana Gutiérrez in the mid-1800s. The home was restored about 10 years ago and operates as a cultural and history center.

### **CAFE & BAR, DANCE HALL NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED**

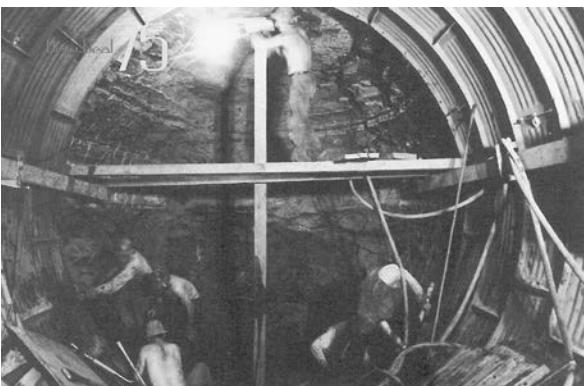
One of southern New Mexico's most venerable dining establishments is celebrating its centennial with some national recognition. **Chope's Town Café and Bar**, in La Mesa south of Las Cruces, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 26. The Cultural Properties Review Committee listed it in the State Register in March and recommended it for the nation's list of properties worthy of preservation.

The restaurant is important for its association with the 1942 Bracero Program which permitted Mexican nationals to live and work in the U.S., its 100 years as a family-run business—most notably managed by Chope Benavides—that has been the heart of La Mesa for generations, and the building's thick adobe walls, vigas, latillas and pressed tin ceilings.

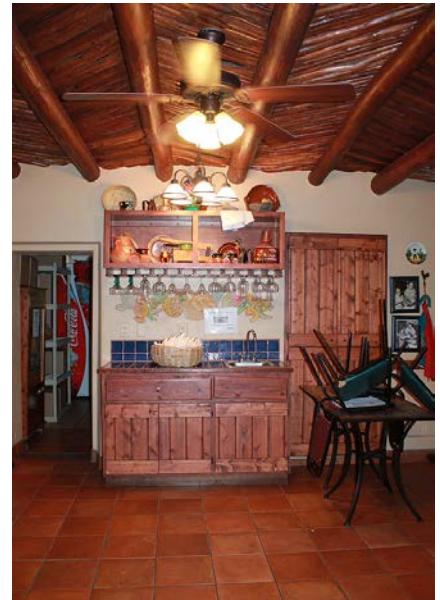
Chope's was nominated by NMSU students Addison Warner and Norma Hartell, with their professor and former CPRC member Beth O'Leary, Ph.D. They wrote the nomination with assistance from HPD Register coordinator Steven Moffson. The register listings received good local and regional press, including this piece by public television and radio station KRWG: <http://krwg.org/post/group-shares-reaction-historic-chope-s-getting-national-designation>.

**San José Hall** in Galisteo, was built ca. 1905 as a religious fraternal meeting area and dance hall that was used by La Sociedad de San José and the community for 60 years. It is important for its architecture, association with Hispanic heritage, and for being one of only five dance halls built in New Mexico and the only one still in use. The nomination was written by consultant John Murphey. Today the hall is being restored and used as an art space.

### **CONCHAS DAM**



Conchas Dam tunnel being built ca. 1936. Photo provided by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Heritage Preservation Month 2008 celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Deal. The Conchas Dam Historic District is listed in the State and National registers.



One of Chope's three dining rooms. HPD file photo.

Conchas Dam was the biggest New Deal Project in New Mexico during the Great Depression. Governor Clyde Tingley believed it crucial to reviving New Mexico's 1930s economy, so much so that he traveled to FDR's private rail car stationed at the nearly completed Hoover Dam to secure funding for its construction in one-on-one talks with the President. Last week SHPO Jeff Pappas and HPD architectural reviewer Barbara Zook met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the maintenance superintendent who proposed replacing the original lighting in the dam's tunnels with modern fluorescent lighting. Barbara and Jeff successfully negotiated an agreement to retain the original lighting while brightening some of the darker sections of the 310-foot tunnel with one-by-four fluorescents.

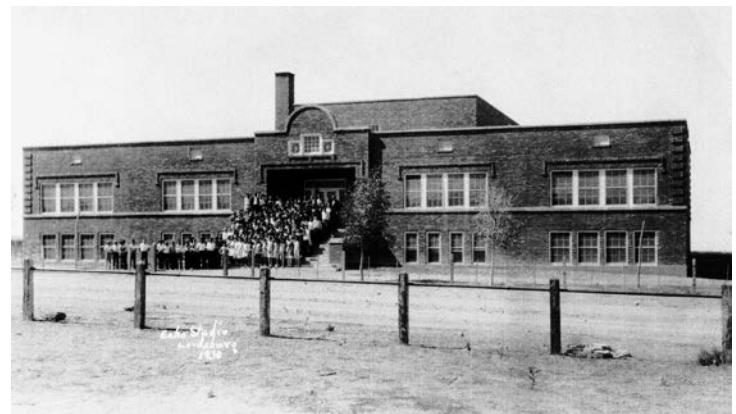
## LORDSBURG HIGH SCHOOL RECOMMENDED FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Ten years of grassroots preservation in southwestern New Mexico paid off when the Cultural Properties Review Committee voted unanimously that abandoned Lordsburg High School should be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Mothballed since the late 1970s, the roof leaks and water has damaged hardwood floors and plaster walls and ceilings on both floors. Although the Lordsburg Municipal School District says the building is a liability and “maintenance nightmare,” CPRC vice-chairman Reginald Richey said it remains Lordsburg’s most significant building and should be preserved.

Built in 1916, the school is historic for the architectural redesign by Trost and Trost

Architects that gave it new classroom wings and a full stage and auditorium that also served as an important events venue. The brick, Mission Revival-style school building represents a period of prosperity and optimism in Lordsburg largely fueled by a mining boom in the small southwestern New Mexico community and a commitment to providing an education in a modern classroom setting.

Lordsburg Municipal School District wants to tear down the building, but 379 people signed a petition to save it and some have contacted HPD directly to say it is an important link to Lordsburg’s past. The school was listed in the State Register in 2013. A decision by the National Park Service to include it in the National Register is expected later this year. The decision is getting press: <http://www.abqjournal.com/606201/news/is-history-worth-cost-of-preserving.html>; <http://www.nmhistoricpreservation.org/documents/press-releases.html>



Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor attended Lordsburg High school for one year before resuming her schooling in El Paso. This photo was taken after construction of the additions designed by Henry C. Trost. (ca. 1939, HPD file photo)

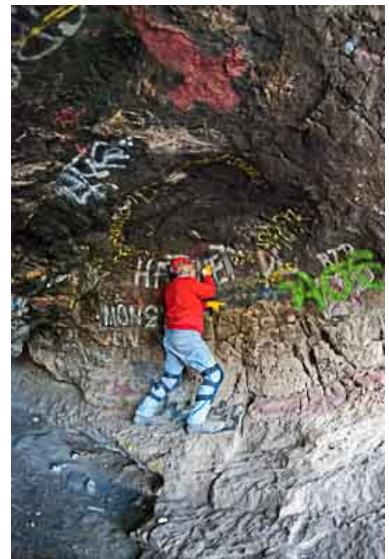
## GRAFFITI REMOVAL AT SANDIA CAVE

### *An HPD Grant at Work*

More than 100 volunteers helped clean-up of Sandia Cave, a National Historic Landmark and the site of one of local archaeology’s most discussed controversies. The June 27 event was attended by HPD SiteWatch coordinator Norm Nelson, assistant state coordinator Rebecca Procter and members of the Torrance County and Tijeris Canyon SiteWatch chapters who helped remove graffiti and picked-up litter. Deputy SHPO Jan Biella also attended the event. Archaeologists explained the preservation project and cave specialists gave lessons on using Elephant Snot®, a commercial graffiti-removal product so named for its viscous texture. The product is suitable for ridding rock, mortar and porous surfaces of graffiti.

Katherine Schaum, a UNM Anthropology Master’s student, successfully applied for an HPD grant to help fund a \$28,000 project to preserve the cave. Heavy, spray-painted graffiti has covered the mouth of the cave and access structures for several years and vandals have etched drawings and words into prehistoric campfire smoke on the cave’s ceiling.

In 1937, UNM archaeologist Frank Hibben claimed to have found pre-Clovis artifacts he said proved human use of the cave dating back 25,000 years, although the circumstances under which the artifacts were discovered came into question. Later research established intermittent human use from 10,000 years ago, the period of Clovis Man, and is the accepted theory today.



Specialists documented graffiti at the cave as part of the grant project before removing it. Sandia Cave is in Las Huertas Canyon near Placitas.

## PRESERVE AMERICA YOUTH SUMMIT A SUCCESS

Fifty-six youth experienced the cultural heritage of northwestern New Mexico and its Chaco Culture sites during a four-day Preserve America Youth Summit sponsored by HPD, NPS and Conservation Legacy. SHPO Jeff Pappas and Deputy SHPO Jan Biella attended a town hall meeting where children shared their educational experiences before the summit closed.

HPD archaeologist Andrew Zink was part of a field trip to the B-Square Ranch owned by Tommy Bolack, who is hosting the Totah Archaeological Field School for San Juan College. Bolack's large landholding along the San Juan River is the site of an extensive Puebloan archaeological site. The field school is participating in the excavation of a great kiva at Point Pueblo, a Chacoan great house community, A.D. 850-1300.

Andrew participated in a discussion about the differences between archaeology on private and public land with an NPS representative and Linda Wheelberger, of San Juan College, who is leading the field school. State preservation law discourages excavation in response to Native American concerns. Those laws do not apply to private land and Mr. Bolack's willingness to host the field school provided a rare first-hand opportunity to witness an archaeological excavation in progress.

Andrew also was part of the summit's tour of Salmon Ruins led by ruins museum executive director Larry Baker, longtime preservation partner of HPD. The youth helped build a demonstration masonry-and-earthen-mortar wall using the same methods employed by Native Americans at Salmon Ruins, a site excavated decades ago and stabilized last year using an HPD grant.

Also participating were Andy Wakefield who helped present a session on the geometrically aligned Chaco road systems. HPD's Michelle Ensey was part of the tour of Aztec Ruins.



The aftermath of the mud-and-masonry construction demonstration at Salmon Ruins. Photo: Preserve America.

## SPECIAL SESSION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Church tower at Giusewa Pueblo.  
Photo: Alex Sedillos.

The Palace of the Governors is among 24 historic buildings and sites slated for improvements through \$5.5 million in capital outlay funds approved during the one-day, June 8 special session of the Legislature. The Palace received \$680,000 for much needed improvements and repairs that will be reviewed by HPD. SHPO Jeff Pappas, Preservation Planning manager Pilar Cannizzaro and archaeological reviewer Michelle Ensey have begun consulting with museum and historic sites directors on proposed work to ensure preservation laws are followed.

Other outlay projects falling under HPD's purview are \$424,000 in upgrades to the National Hispanic Cultural Center whose campus includes the New Deal-era Old West San José School; new trails and a viewing deck at Bosque Redondo Memorial and Fort Sumner Historic Site, and \$25,000 for ongoing preservation of Giusewa Pueblo and San José de los Jemez mission church at the Jemez Historic Site.

## HPD IN ACTION

Albuquerque's Central Avenue runs through historic areas that will be affected by the city's **Bus Rapid Transit** project, a modern bus line expected to be up and running down the median of the post-1937 Route 66 corridor in about five years. HPD's Barbara Zook, Pilar Cannizzaro, Bob Estes and SHPO Jeff Pappas met with the Federal Transit Authority and the City of Albuquerque to address concerns over three stations slated for historic areas. HPD determined massive canopies planned for the stations would have been obtrusive in the



Inside the caverns, ca. 1930s. photo: courtesy Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

Huning Highlands Historic District and downtown. Plans were modified during talks with HPD. The \$120 million-dollar project would establish 18 stations between Tramway Road and 98<sup>th</sup> Street on the east and west ends of Central.

The Elephant Butte Naval Space Surveillance Field Station will be demolished following consultation with HPD. It is one of nine locations in the southern states where the nation's sensors for tracking satellites and space debris orbiting Earth first were established. An Historic American Building Survey Level II documentation will mitigate loss of the station. The land where the station is built will be returned to the owner of the surrounding ranch.

**Carlsbad Caverns National Park** is one of New Mexico's three UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Jeff and Pilar met with park staff about a lighting project inside the caves, which HPD previously determined was detrimental to the cavern's natural and historic features. The project was well underway when the park contacted HPD to begin consultation on the massive and complex lighting scheme last winter. To alleviate further intrusion on the cave's natural and historic qualities, HPD and the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are working on a Memorandum of Agreement with the park.

## TRANSITIONS & A WELCOME



David at the office send-off at Museum Hill.

Two HPD staffers have moved on to new opportunities.

**David Plaza** is at Oregon's Upqua National Forest to work on archaeological sites damaged by forest fires. He assisted on several projects from 2013 – 2015, including digitization of the Historic Cultural Property Inventory forms and State and National register nominations. In recent months he administered HPD's Site Room and made register nominations available to consultants and the public.

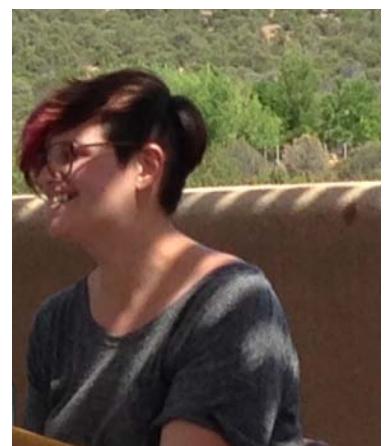
When David left us in the fall of 2014 for eight weeks of boot camp in the Army National Guard, **Leah Fitzgerald** worked on his HCPI scanning project. She also upgraded numerous federal project review surveys and reports submitted by consultants into a quality archive for HPD's

Archaeological Records Management Section. Leah is doing archaeological field work in Oklahoma and New York.

Both David and Leah attended Eastern New Mexico University's Anthropology Graduate Program. David earned his masters and Leah was working toward her degree.

HPD welcomes **Janet Dombrowski**, a career librarian who is our new archivist and Site Room administrator.

Before starting at HPD in June, she was the University of Hawaii's GIS maps librarian. Janet also has worked at New Mexico's State Library, the Geology Library at the University of Wyoming at Laramie, and for 13 years was a librarian for *National Geographic*.



Besides sharing some job duties, Leah and David also shared a good-bye party. Photos: Tom Drake

Janet gave up island life, landed the HPD job, and says she is thrilled to be able to work here and return to Santa Fe. Janet will help HPD fulfill its mission to archive and curate permanent records on the registers, federal and state project reviews and other matters. She'll also move us a quite a bit further into the digital age.

## IN MEMORY

HPD lost one of its longest serving and most dedicated employees when Pat Lucero passed away on April 26.

Pat started working at HPD primarily as a receptionist in 1996. She became the division's archivist and kept meticulous records of every state and federal project review that went through the office for nearly 19 years. Pat organized review files—some given to her in complete disarray—so they could be officially archived at State Records and Archives. When a staffer needed a file retrieved from Archives, Pat made the arrangements and the file was returned to HPD efficiently. She could almost instantly locate any project review file in the office and would drop everything to find it. Long before digitization of our State and National register files began, Pat microfilmed hundreds of them in the late 1990s to help preserve what are perhaps HPD's most important records for posterity.

Pat died just days before she was scheduled to retire. Her services at St Anne's Catholic Church and Rosario Cemetery were attended by family friends and her colleagues at HPD. Pat will be missed for her sly sense of humor and an all-knowing flash of the eyes.

## COMING UP AT HPD

- The CPRC meets August 7, at 1 p.m., in the Old Senate Chambers of the Bataan Memorial Building in Santa Fe. Check the HPD website for any relocation announcement.
- Former SHPO Katherine Slick and Theresa Leger, vice chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, are working with HPD intern Ben Craske, of New Mexico State University, on the American Latino Heritage Initiative project planned for Santa Fe this fall. The workshop is held in conjunction with US-ICOMOS in September and is a follow-up to a March event in Washington, D.C. Participants will explore American communities that can trace their heritage to Spanish settlements from 500 years ago.
- The second Building Creative Communities Conference will be held at La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe, November 4-6. HPD is planning several sessions.

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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L-R: Then-staffers Elizabeth Oster, Pat, Patrick Lucero, and John Murphey reassemble the Site Room and Register files after the move to the Bataan Building in 2006. photo: Tom Drake