

# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

# memo

**DATE:** January 14, 2025  
**TO:** Historic Districts Review Board  
**FROM:** Paul A. Duran, Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Division

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**2024-009653-HDRB, 1010 Camino San Acacio**, Downtown and Eastside Historic District, Non-contributing, Daniel Strongwater, agent for Jeremy and Caroline Rohrlich, owner, requests status review with primary façade designation if applicable.

## REFERENCE ATTACHMENTS (Sequentially):

### CITY SUBMITTALS

District Standards & yard wall & fence standards.

Historic Inventory Form

Zoning Review Sheet

Other: Primary Façade Diagram

### APPLICANT SUBMITTALS

Proposal Letter

Site Plan/Floor Plan

Elevations

Photographs

Other:

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the historic status of the structure and rock yard wall be upgraded to contributing and the north, east, and west façades be designated as primary identified in the façade diagram as numbers 1, 3, 9 and 10 per 14-5.2(C) Designation of Significant and Contributing Structures.

## BACKGROUND & SUMMARY:

The single-family residence at 1010 Camino San Acacio is listed as non-contributing to the Downtown and Eastside Historic District. The 2,874 sq. ft. main residential structure was built on a 0.27-acre lot in the early 1960s. The main structure was built in the Spanish Pueblo Revival architectural style as seen by the adobe and rock foundation construction materials, recessed door and windows, and wooden corbel elements. The structure was built by Mr. Louie Ewing, a well-known artist who lived and worked in Santa Fe from 1935-1983. As the Historic Cultural Property Inventory (HCPI) form states, *“The building retains sufficient integrity of setting, design,*

materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to be contributing to the Santa Fe Downtown and Eastside Historic Review District.” (Byszewski 2024). Mr. Ewing was most well known for his photographic work that he did for the Laboratory of Anthropology in 1939.

In Case (2024-009653-HDRB) the Applicant requests status review with primary façade(s) designation if applicable.



**1010 Camino San Acacio: Primary Façade Diagram**

**Primary Façade:** ————

**Non-primary Façade:** ————

**RELEVANT CODE CITATIONS:**

## 14-5.2 HISTORIC DISTRICTS

### (A) General Provisions

#### (1) General Purpose

In order to promote the economic, cultural, and general welfare of the people of the *city* and to ensure the harmonious, orderly and efficient growth and *development* of the *city*, it is deemed essential by the *governing body* that the qualities relating to the history of Santa Fe, and a harmonious outward appearance, which preserve *property* values and attract tourists and residents alike, be preserved, some of these qualities being:

- (a) The continued existence and *preservation* of historical areas and *buildings*;
- (b) The continued construction of *buildings* in the historic styles; and
- (c) A general harmony as to style, form, color, height, proportion, texture and material between *buildings* of historic design and those of more modern design.

### (C) Regulation of Significant and Contributing Structures in the Historic Districts

(Ord. No. 2004-26)

#### (1) Purpose and Intent

It is intended that:

- (a) Each *structure* to be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical *development*, such as the addition of conjectural features or architectural elements from other *buildings*, shall not be undertaken;
- (b) Changes to *structures* that have acquired historic *significance* in their own right shall be retained and preserved, recognizing that most *structures* change over time;
- (c) Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a *structure* be preserved; and
- (d) New additions and related or adjacent new construction be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the original form and integrity of the historic *property* and its environment would be unimpaired.

#### (2) Designation of Significant, Contributing, or Noncontributing Status within Historic Districts

##### (a) Status Designation

*Structures* within historic districts may be designated a status of "significant," "contributing," or "noncontributing" based upon the definitions of these terms in Article 14-12. Staff shall maintain a record as to the current status of *structures* located in the Historic Districts.

##### (b) Board Authority to Review Status Designation

- (i) The Board is authorized to change the status of a *structure* or to designate a status for a *structure* with no status designated.

(ii) A change in status or the designation of a status shall be based upon an evaluation of data provided through survey or other relevant sources of information and the definitions of "significant," "contributing," or "noncontributing."

(e) Appeals (Ord. No. 2009-42 § 16)

Decisions made by the historic districts review board may be appealed to the *governing body* as set forth in Section 14-3.17.

(f) Restoration of Status

If a *property owner* makes changes to a *structure* without the proper *city* approvals which result in the lowering of the *structure's* status, staff or the board may require the *property owner* to restore the *structure* such that its former status is restored.

(4) Compliance with General and Specific Design Standards Required

All *development* located within the historic districts and subject to this Section 14-5.2 shall comply with all applicable general *development* standards set forth in Subsection 14-5.2(D), as well as any applicable specific *development* standards set forth in Subsections 14-5.2(E) through (I).

(5) Exceptions

Staff shall determine whether an exception to this section is required. The historic board may grant an exception to the regulations set forth in this section provided that such exception does not exceed the underlying zoning.

(a) Height

If the *applicant* requests approval of a height in the historic district that exceeds the underlying zoning district requirement, the *applicant* shall first receive an exception to this Section 14-5.2. If approved by the historic board, the *applicant* shall proceed to the board of adjustment or other applicable *city* body for consideration of the proposed variance.

(b) Design Standards and Signage

The board may recommend exceptions to Subsections 14-5.2(D)(1-8, 10-11) and 14-5.2(E) through (I) for construction or alterations within the historic district. The recommendation for exceptions shall be made to the *governing body*. Procedures for public notice and hearing before the *governing body* shall be as set forth in Section 14-3.6(B)(3). Exceptions are *project* specific and do not apply to the subject *property* in perpetuity. If approved by the *governing body*, the inspections and enforcement *office* shall accept and review an *application* for, and issue, as appropriate, a *building permit*. The *applicant* for such exceptions shall conclusively demonstrate and the board shall make a positive finding of fact that such exceptions comply with all the criteria listed as follows:

(i) Do not damage the character of the district;

(ii) Are required to prevent a hardship to the *applicant* or an injury to the public welfare; and

(iii) Strengthen the unique heterogeneous character of the *City* by providing a full range of design options to ensure that residents can continue to reside within the historic districts.

(c) Height, Pitch, Scale, Massing, and Floor Stepbacks

The board is the *city* administrative board reviewing and granting or denying requests for exceptions from regulations set forth in Subsection 14-5.2(D)(9). When requesting exceptions the *applicant* shall use the procedures for public notice and hearing set forth in Section 14-3.6(B)(3), unless the *applicant* also requests a variance to the underlying zoning. In such a case the *applicant* for the H ordinance exception shall not be required to publish a legal ad in the local newspaper. Exceptions are *project* specific and do not apply to the subject *property* in perpetuity. The board may grant exceptions and impose conditions thereon to Subsection 14-5.2(D)(9) for height of *structures* within the historic districts as specified in Subsection 14-5.2(D)(9)(a). The *applicant* for such exceptions shall conclusively demonstrate and the board shall make a positive finding of fact that such exceptions comply with all the criteria listed as follows:

- (i) Do not damage the character of the *streetscape*;
- (ii) Prevent a hardship to the *applicant* or an injury to the public welfare;
- (iii) Strengthen the unique heterogeneous character of the *city* by providing a full range of design options to ensure that residents can continue to reside within the historic districts;
- (iv) Are due to special conditions and circumstances which are peculiar to the land or *structure* involved and which are not applicable to other lands or *structures* in the related *streetscape*;
- (v) Are due to special conditions and circumstances which are not a result of the actions of the *applicant*; and
- (vi) Provide the least negative impact with respect to the purpose of this section as set forth in Subsection 14-5.2(A)(1).

(E) **Downtown and Eastside Design Standards**

The *governing body* recognizes that a style of architecture has evolved within the *city* from the year 1600 to the present characterized by construction with *adobe*, hereafter called "old Santa Fe style", and that another style has evolved, hereafter called "recent Santa Fe style", which is a *development* from, and an elaboration of the old Santa Fe style, with different materials and frequently with added decorations.

(1) Old Santa Fe Style

Old Santa Fe style, characterized by construction with *adobe*, is defined as including the so-called "pueblo" or "pueblo-Spanish" or "Spanish-Indian" and "territorial" styles and is more specifically described as follows:

- (a) With rare exception, *buildings* are of one *story*, few have three stories, and the characteristic effect is that the *buildings* are long and low. Roofs are flat with a

slight *slope* and surrounded on at least three sides by a firewall of the same color and material as the *walls* or of brick. Roofs are never carried out beyond the line of the *walls* except to cover an enclosed *portal* or *porch* formed by setting back a portion of the *wall* or to form an exterior *portal*, the outer edge of the roof being supported by wooden columns. Two- *story* construction is more common in the territorial than in other sub-styles, and is preferably accompanied by a balcony at the level of the floor of the second *story*. Façades are flat, varied by inset *portales*, exterior *portales*, projecting vigas or roof beams, canales or water-spouts, flanking buttresses and wooden lintels, architraves and cornices, which, as well as doors, are frequently carved and the carving may be picked out with bright colors. Arches are almost never used except for nonfunctional arches, often slightly ogive, over gateways in freestanding *walls*;

- (b) All exterior *walls* of a *building* are painted alike. The colors range from a light earth color to a dark earth color. The exception to this rule is the protected space under *portales*, or in church-derived designs, inset panels in a *wall* under the roof, in which case the roof overhangs the panel. These spaces may be painted white or a contrasting color, or have mural decorations;
- (c) Solid *wall* space is always greater in any façade than window and door space combined. Single panes of glass larger than thirty (30) inches in any dimension are not permissible except as otherwise provided in this section;
- (d) The rule as to flat roofs shall not be construed to prevent the construction of skylights or installation of air conditioning devices, or any other necessary roof *structures*, but such *structures* other than chimneys, flues, vents and aerials, shall be so placed as to be concealed by the firewall from the view of anyone standing in the *street* on which the *building* fronts;
- (e) True old Santa Fe style *buildings* are made of *adobe* with mud plaster finish. Construction with masonry blocks, bricks, or other materials with which the *adobe* effect can be simulated is permissible; provided, that the exterior *walls* are not less than eight (8) inches thick and that geometrically straight façade lines are avoided. Mud plaster or hard plaster simulating *adobe*, laid on smoothly, is required; and
- (f) It is characteristic of old Santa Fe style commercial *buildings* to place a *portal* so that it covers the entire sidewalk, the columns being set at the curb line.

## (2) Recent Santa Fe Style

Recent Santa Fe style intends to achieve harmony with historic *buildings* by *retention* of a similarity of materials, color, proportion, and general detail. The dominating effect is to be that of *adobe* construction, prescribed as follows:

- (a) No *building* shall be over two stories in height in any façade unless the façade shall include projecting or recessed *portales*, *setbacks* or other design elements;
- (b) The combined door and window area in any *publicly visible* façade shall not exceed forty percent of the total area of the façade except for doors or windows located under a *portal*. No door or window in a *publicly visible* façade shall be located nearer than three (3) feet from the corner of the façade;

- (c) No cantilevers shall be permitted except over projecting vigas, beams, or wood corbels, or as part of the roof *treatment* described below;
- (d) No less than eighty percent of the surface area of any *publicly visible* façade shall be *adobe* finish, or stucco simulating *adobe* finish. The balance of the *publicly visible* façade, except as above, may be of natural stone, wood, brick, tile, terra cotta, or other material, subject to approval as hereinafter provided for *building permits*;
- (e) The *publicly visible* façade of any *building* and of any adjoining *walls* shall, except as otherwise provided, be of one color, which color shall simulate a light earth or dark earth color, matte or dull finish and of relatively smooth texture. Façade surfaces under *portales* may be of contrasting or complimentary colors. Windows, doors and *portals* on *publicly visible* portions of the *building* and *walls* shall be of one of the old Santa Fe styles; except that *buildings* with *portals* may have larger plate glass areas for windows under *portals* only. Deep window recesses are characteristic; and
- (f) Flat roofs shall have not more than thirty (30) inches overhang.

**DEFINITIONS:**

14-12 Contributing Structure:

A structure, located in a historic district, approximately fifty years old or older that helps to establish and maintain the character of that historic district. Although a contributing structure is not unique in itself, it adds to the historic associations or historic architectural design qualities that are significant for a district. The contributing structure may have had minor alterations, but its integrity remains.

14-12 Primary Façade:

One or more principal faces or elevations of a building with features that define the character of the building's architecture.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE PLANNING AND LAND USE DEPARTMENT:**

Title	Name	Initials
Department Director	Heather Lamboy	HLL
Assistant Department Director	Maggie Moore	MM
Planning Manager	Gary Moquino	GSM
Planner Senior	Paul Duran	PD