

# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

# memo

**DATE:** February 11, 2025

**TO:** Historic Districts Review Board

**VIA:** Heather Lamboy, Planning & Land Use Department Director  
Maggie Moore, Acting Assistant Land Use Director  
Gary Moquino, Historic Preservation Division Manager

**FROM:** Amanda Romero, Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Division

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**2025-009719-HDRB, 878 E. Palace.** Downtown and Eastside Historic District. Micheal Herrera, agent for Marilyn Halla, owner, requests a status review and primary façade designation.

**REFERENCE ATTACHMENTS (Sequentially):**

**CITY SUBMITTALS**

District Standards & yard wall  
& fence standards.

Historic Inventory Form

Zoning Review Sheet

Other:

**APPLICANT SUBMITTALS**

Proposal Letter

Site Plan/Floor Plan

Elevations

Photographs

Other:

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the historic status of the structure be maintained as contributing and the east and south yard walls to be designated as non-contributing. Staff recommends that the east and north façades of the structure be designated as primary as identified in the façade diagram as numbers 1 and 2(excluding non-historic material) per 14-5.2(C) Designation of Significant and Contributing Structures.

**BACKGROUND & SUMMARY:**

The single-family residence at 878 E. Palace Ave. is listed as contributing to the Downtown and Eastside Historic District. A reconnaissance survey conducted in 1985 designated the structure as Contributing. The 900 sq. ft. main residential structure was built on a 0.088-acre lot in the early 1930s and the 64 sq. ft. shed structure was built in the mid-1990s. The main structure was built in the Spanish Pueblo Revival architectural style as seen by flat roof, rounded parapets and cut through canales. In the 2024 Historic Cultural Properties Inventory (HCPI) form, Mr. Murphey identifies additions to the west and south facades as identified in the façade diagram as numbers 3 and 4, with the enclosure of the south elevation porch and the north elevation portal completed by the 1970s. Mr. Murphy states the windows and doors are non-historic; however, the exact date is unknown. The east yard wall was constructed prior to 1966 and was raised in height between 1973 and 1978. The south yard wall was constructed between 1973 and 1978 as identified in the HCPI form.

Although the structure has undergone several alterations over the years, it retains the design qualities that are significant to the district, is well over 50 years old and if protected should continue to contribute to the character of the district.

As illustrated on a State Engineer's Office 1914 map, the property on which the house is located belonged to Miguel Rodriguez who used the land for agricultural purposes. The house was constructed by 1930 near the old Fishcher Brewery on a part of East Palace that still was part of a working-class neighborhood. The house has been predominantly used as a rental or a second home over the years.

Previous Historic District Review Board (HDRB) cases include:

On June 1, 1984, case #1984-010100230 the board approved the enclosure of the portal on the west façade identified as number 3 in the façade diagram. Staff has no further information on the hearing.

On October 23, 2018, case #H-18-100-1762, applicant requested roof mounted HVAC to be heard by the HDRB, this case was postponed to be handled administratively. There are currently no records for the roof mounted HVAC system or for the ground mounted HVAC system on the north façade.



878 E. Palace Ave: Façade Diagram

Primary Façade ———

Non-Primary Façade ———

**APPLICANT'S REQUEST:**

The applicant requests a status review with primary façade designation(s) if applicable.

**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).

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.

(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.