

# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

# memo

**DATE:** July 22, 2025

**TO:** Historic Districts Review Board Members

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

**FROM:** Lani McCulley, Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Division *LJM*

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2025-010664-HDRB, 619 W Alameda St., Westside-Guadalupe Historic District, non-contributing, Dura Build Construction, agent for Max Scott, owner, requests a historic status review with primary facade(s) designation, if applicable, for a residential structure.

**REFERENCE ATTACHMENTS (Sequentially):**

**CITY SUBMITTALS**

District Standards & yard wall & fence standards.

Historic Inventory Form

Zoning Review Sheet

Other: [building and yard wall height calculations]

**APPLICANT SUBMITTALS**

Proposal Letter

Site Plan/Floor Plan

Elevations

Photographs

Other: [2025 HCPI]

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the historic status of the structure be upgraded to contributing with the south façade and the west façades (façades 3 and 4) as primary per 14-5.2(C) Designation of Significant, Contributing or Noncontributing Status Within Historic Districts. Staff also recommends a contributing status for the pen tile well to protect it per 14-5.2(C) Designation of Significant, Contributing or Noncontributing Status Within Historic Districts.

**Sample motions:**

- a. In case 2025-010664-HDRB, for 619 West Alameda Street, upgrade the residential structure to contributing and designate the south façade (or other facades) as primary.
- b. In case 2025-010664-HDRB, for 619 West Alameda Street, retain the residential structure as non-contributing.
- c. In case 2025-010664-HDRB,for 619 West Alameda Street, status the pen tile well as contributing.
- d. In case 2025-010664-HDRB, for 619 West Alameda Street, status the pen tile well as non-contributing

**BACKGROUND & SUMMARY:**

**Streetscape and Context:**

The property at 619 West Alameda is located across from the Santa Fe River Park, which is a passive recreational area with landscaping, picnic tables, and a walking path. The park is bounded on one side by the ten-foot drop to the riverbed and on the other side by Alameda Street. This parkway was developed for the visual enhancement of the nature of the site.

Across from the Santa Fe River is the residential sector of Alameda Street. The houses range in style, with the most prominent styles being Spanish Pueblo Revival and Vernacular in this area. Most of the residences are lower single-story buildings with an average height on the streetscape of 12’8”. The street is lined with low yard walls with an average height of 46” (3’10”). The yard walls are stuccoed concrete masonry units that are colored to match the corresponding building.



Figure 1: Location of Property.

**Site Description:**

The 702 sq. ft. single-family residence at 619 W Alameda Street is listed as non-contributing to the Westside-Guadalupe Historic District. The Spanish Pueblo Revival structure is constructed of adobe and pentile. A rectangular wood-framed addition previously located on the north side of the structure collapsed in 2024. Aside from its foundation, all parts of this addition have been removed from the property. Additionally, there was a shed on the property, which was also removed in 2024.

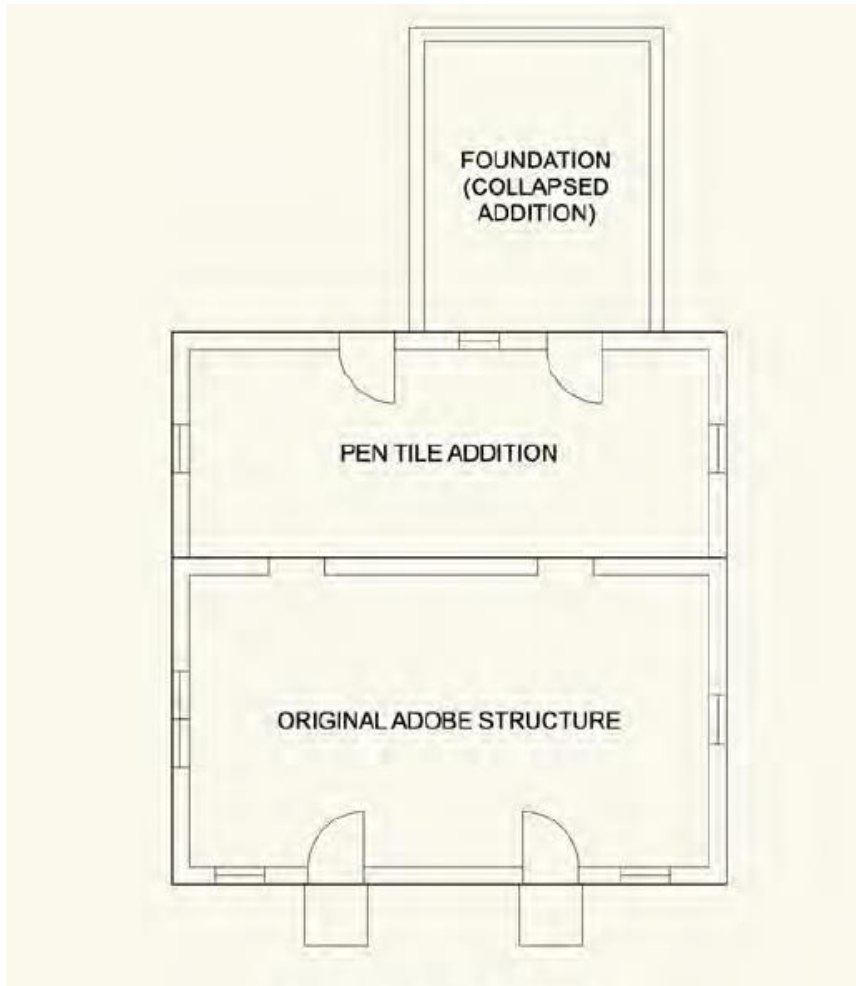


Figure 2: Residential Sections.

The adobe portion of the residence was constructed about 1943, with the pen tile addition being constructed by 1951. The wood-framed addition appears to have been constructed in 1975. There are viga ends at the exterior and interior of the adobe north and south walls, though the interior portion of the vigas appears to have been removed at some point. The north wall has projecting roof joists on the pen tile addition. All except one window are wood, double-hung hung single-glazed one-over-one windows. There are some wood screens, though not all windows have these screens. The two front doors on the south may be handmade wood, frame, and panel with a glazed flower petal design. The western rear door is a frame and panel, and the eastern rear door is a hollow-core wood door. All windows and doors are recessed, and the windows have projecting concrete windowsills. The two front doors have two small steps. Roof drainage is a single-sheet

metal canale on the north elevation. The exterior walls are cement stucco on chicken wire with paint on the stucco. The property holds a front wire fence with a wire gate, a side chain link fence, short cast concrete posts, a couple of wood posts, and possible remains of a stone boundary. The residence is typical of the streetscape.



Figure 3: South Façade of Residence.

There is also a pentile-lined well on the west side of the property. Its origin and details are not available, but given that it is of pen tile, it was most likely constructed at the time of the pen tile addition in 1951. The 1950s saw a significant increase in well drilling in part because the state allowed farmers to transition from dryland farming to more water-intensive crops like alfalfa, corn, and cotton, transforming the agricultural landscape. The state further allowed homeowners to drill and use a certain amount of water annually. This well may be a part of this step forward in water usage.

There are no cases on record for the property in the Historic Preservation Division files.

### **APPLICANT'S REQUEST:**

The applicant requests:

- 1) Status review with primary façade designation, if applicable, of residential structure.

The southern portion of the window holds the greatest historic integrity of the building, with the adobe construction, viga ends, double front doors with corresponding windows, inset windows and doors, and concrete windowsills. The front doors are handmade front doors. The west façade shows the growth of the building from adobe to the pen tile addition and holds historic inset wood

windows with concrete sills. The pen tile well is most likely from the 1950s and is unique to the Alameda streetscape.

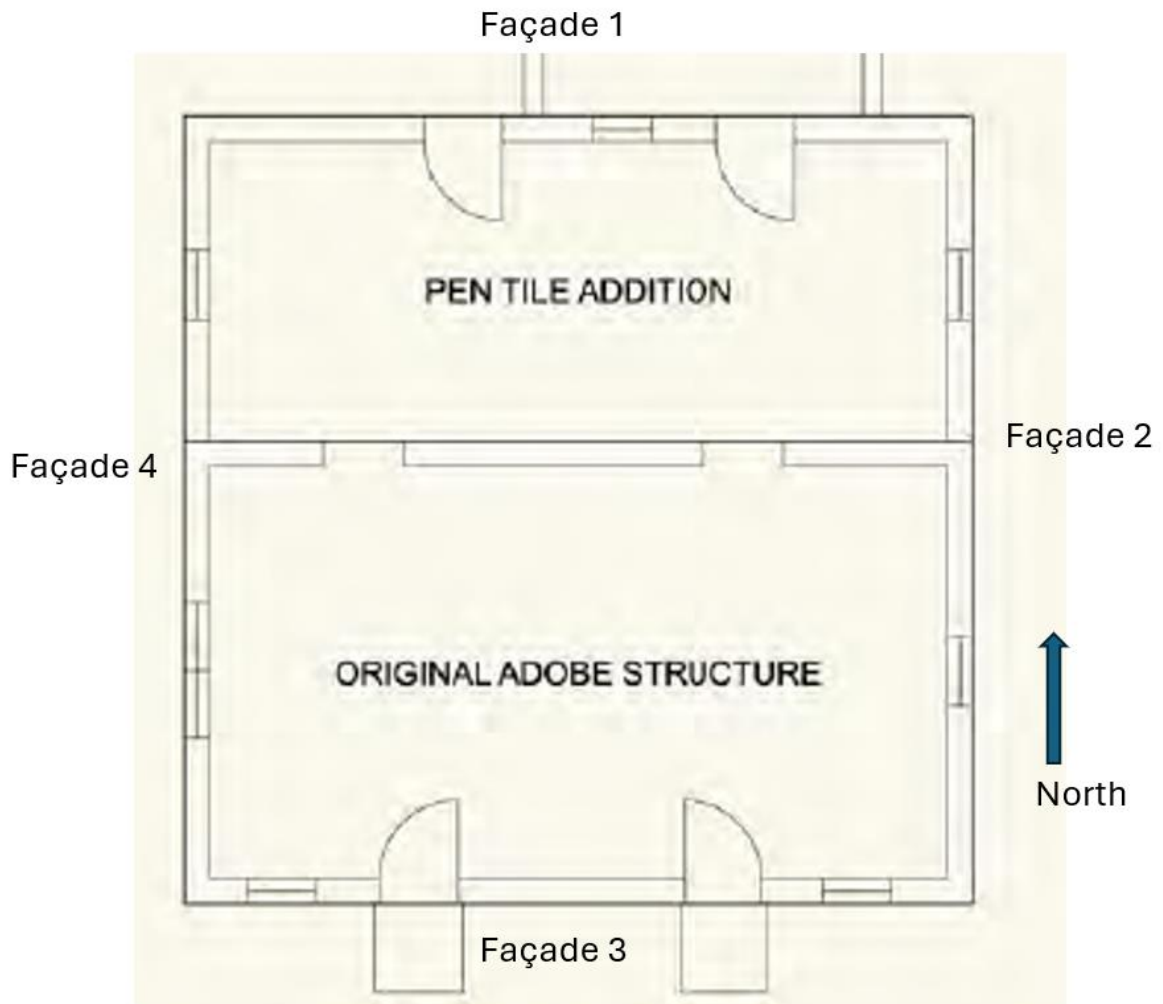


Figure 4: Façade Diagram

**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 Significant Structure:

A structure located in a historic district that is approximately fifty years old or older, and that embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction. For a structure to be designated as significant, it must retain a high level of historic integrity. A structure may be designated as significant:

- (A) for its association with events or persons that are important on a local, regional, national or global level; or
- (B) if it is listed on or is eligible to be listed on the State Register of Cultural Properties or the National Register of Historic Places.

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 Noncontributing Structure:

A structure, located in an H district, that is less than fifty years old or that does not exhibit sufficient historic integrity to establish and maintain the character of the H District.

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.

14-12 Historic Compound

An identifiable grouping of historic resources, including buildings, structures and landscaping elements, as described in Section 14-5.2(K)(2)(a). Historic compounds may be comprised of more than one lot.

(I) **Westside-Guadalupe Historic District**

(1) District Standards

Compliance with the following structural standards shall occur whenever those exterior features of *buildings* and other *structures* subject to public view from any public *street*, way, or other public place are erected, altered, or demolished:

- (a) Slump block, stucco, brick, or stone shall be used as exterior *wall* materials. Wood and other materials may be used for details. Aluminum siding, metal panels, mirrored glass, and unstuccoed concrete block or unstuccoed concrete shall not be used as exterior *wall* materials;
- (b) The color of stuccoed *buildings* shall predominantly be in browns, tans, local earth tones and soft pastels. Surfaces of stone or brick shall be in the natural color. Entryways, and *portales* or *porches* may be emphasized by the use of white or other colors. Painting of *buildings* with a color that causes arresting or spectacular effects or with bold repetitive patterns or using *buildings* as signs is prohibited. Murals, however, are permitted and may be referred to the *city* arts board for an advisory recommendation;
- (c) Roof form, *slope*, and shape. It is intended that *buildings* be designed to be "wall dominated". "Wall dominated" means that the *building's* geometry is more defined by *walls* than by roofs. *Buildings* with flat, gabled, shed, or *hipped roofs* can be designed as "wall dominated" solutions and are allowed. The height of the roof above the *wall* shall be no greater than the height of the *wall*. Folded plate, hyperbolic or mansard roofs are not allowed;
- (d) The use of solar and other energy collecting and conserving strategies is encouraged. The use of large glazed areas on south facing *walls* for trombe *walls* or other solar collectors, direct gain, or other energy collecting purposes is allowed. When in view from any public *street*, way, or other public place, solar equipment shall be screened as follows:
  - (i) raising the parapet;
  - (ii) setting back from the edge of the roof;
  - (iii) framing the collector with wood;
  - (iv) in the case of pitched roofs, by integrating the collector into the pitch;
  - (v) in the case of ground solar collectors by a *wall* or vegetation;
  - (vi) in the case of *wall* collectors, by enclosing by end or other *walls*;
  - (vii) other means that screen the collector or integrate it into the overall *structure*.  
Non-glare materials shall be used in solar collectors.
- (e) Mechanical, electrical, telephone equipment, microwave satellite receiving dishes, and other obtrusive equipment shall be architecturally screened with opaque materials by raising the parapet, boxing in the equipment, or other appropriate means. The equipment shall be of a low profile to minimize the *screening* problems;
- (f) *Walls* and fences shall be of brick, *adobe*, masonry, rock, wood, coyote fencing, or similar materials. Wrought iron fences and slump block *walls* are allowed. *Walls* of unstuccoed concrete block, unstuccoed concrete, chain-link, metal wire, or similar materials are prohibited, except where the *wall* or fence is not in the *street* frontage;
- (g) *Greenhouses*

- (h) Attached *greenhouses* that front on the *street* shall give the appearance of being integrated into the *structure* of the *building* or of being a substantive addition rather than having a lean-to effect. The use of corrugated fiberglass or rolled plastic for the external surface of attached or freestanding *greenhouses* that front on the *street* is prohibited. *Greenhouses* with slanting sides shall be bracketed at the ends and that *greenhouses* made from enclosed *porches* or *portales* maintain the shape of the *porch* or *portal*;
  - (i) *Porches* and *portales* are encouraged;
  - (j) When parking spaces are required for commercial or multi-family *residential buildings*, they shall be placed to the rear or side of the building.
- (2) Walls; Fences; Solar Collectors; Administration

*Applications* for erection, alteration, or demolition of *walls*, fences, and solar collectors and required submittals shall be reviewed by the planning and land use department. Approval, disapproval or referral shall be indicated by the division on the *application* for the building *permit* and on each of the required submittals, all of which shall be signed by the division staff assigned to the review. The division shall report approvals, disapprovals, and referrals to the board at its next regular meeting as an informational item. (Ord. No. 2007-45 § 30; Ord. #2020-22, § 16)