

City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

memo

DATE: September 23, 2025

TO: Historic Districts Review Board

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

FROM: Paul A. Duran, Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Division 

2025-010945-HDRB, 549 ½ Agua Fria St., Westside Guadalupe Historic District, Contributing, Robert Kreger, agent for Catherine Wynne, owner, requests approval of a 240 sq. ft. addition on the north elevation to a height of 12' where the maximum allowable is 17'-5".

REFERENCE ATTACHMENTS (Sequentially):

CITY SUBMITTALS

District Standards & yard wall
& fence standards.

Historic Inventory Form

Zoning Review Sheet

Other: Façade Diagram

APPLICANT SUBMITTALS

Proposal Letter

Site Plan/Floor Plan

Elevations

Photographs

Other:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed project and finds that the application complies with Section 14-5.2(D) General Design Standards for all Historic Districts, and 14-5.2(I) Westside-Guadalupe Design Standards.

Sample motions:

- a. Approve or deny Case #2025-010945 to allow these alterations to 549 ½ Agua Fria Street.

- b. Approve or deny Case #2025-010945 to allow these alterations to 549 ½ Agua Fria Street subject to conditions.

BACKGROUND & SUMMARY:

The single-family residence at 549 ½ Agua Fria Street is listed as contributing to the Westside-Guadalupe Historic District with the southern façade designated as primary excluding non-historic materials. The Santa Fe County Tax Parcel information on the property describes that the main dwelling and garage at 549 Agua Fria Street were built in 1867. Mr. Murphey’s 2025 Historic Cultural Property Inventory (HCPI) survey report identifies the main structure and garage as being built in the 1920s. Mr. Murphey shares that the adobe garage was converted into a small cottage in the 1940s with additions in the 1960s (Murphey 2025:1). The current structure at 549 ½ Agua Fria Street is described as a modest Pueblo Revival style building comprised of approximately 1,000 sq. ft. of roofed area constructed from adobe block material with a stuccoed exterior.

549 ½ Agua Fria Street

Building Height Calculation:

Total: 125.8 Count: 9 Avg.: 13.9 Max Allowable: 15'7"

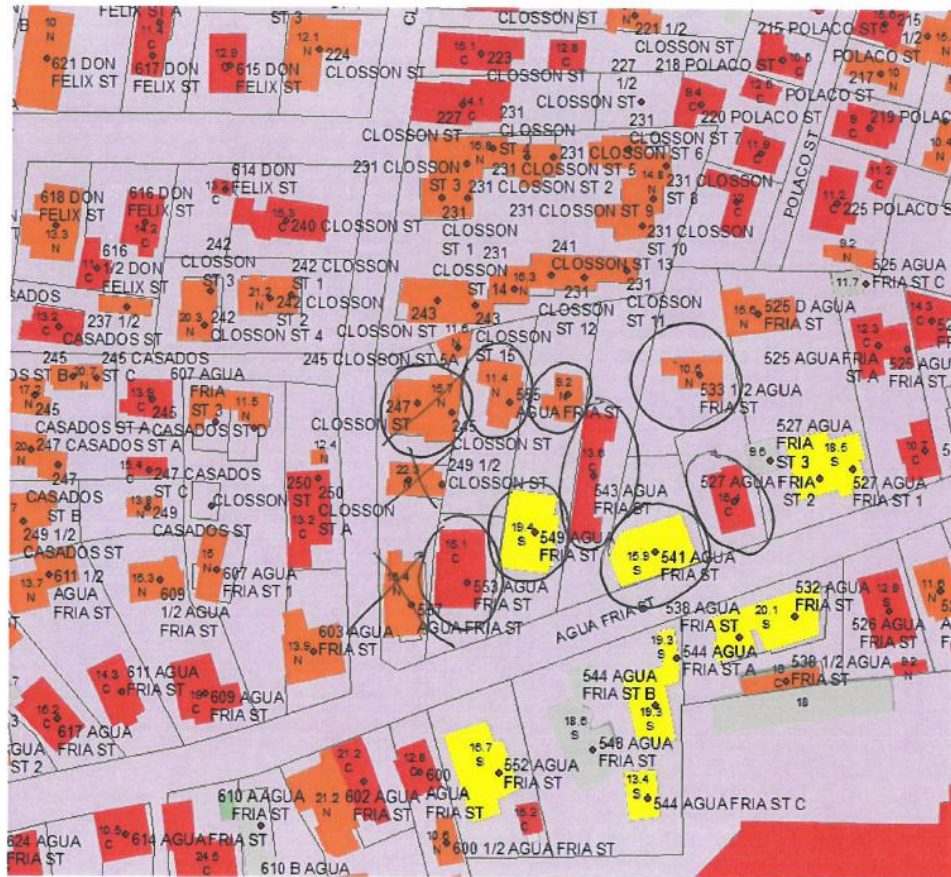


Figure 1. Building Height Calculation.

On August 12, 2025, in Case No. 2025-010870-HDRB, the Historic Districts Review Board (Board) upgraded the historic status of the structure to contributing and designated the south elevation as the primary façade identified as number one on the Façade Diagram, exclusive of non-historic doors and windows. The motion passed unanimously.



Figure 2: Façade Diagram for Contributing Status at 549 ½ Agua Fria Street.

Primary Façade: —————

Non-primary Façade: —————

The structure recently has had wholesale window and door replacement, construction of the south elevation garden wall, and a new roof. The new roof was approved administratively on January

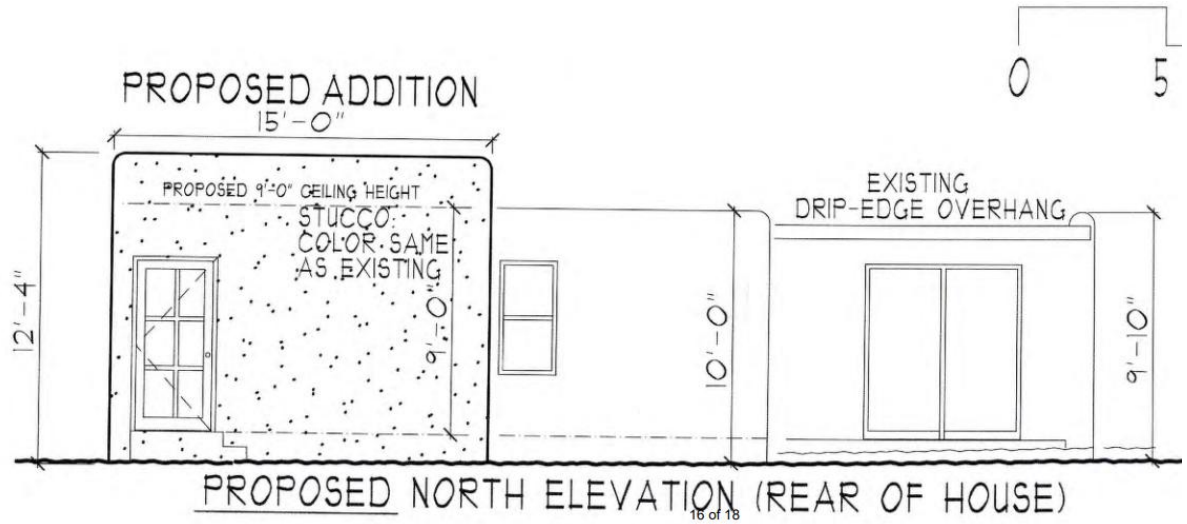


Figure 3. Proposed North Elevation.

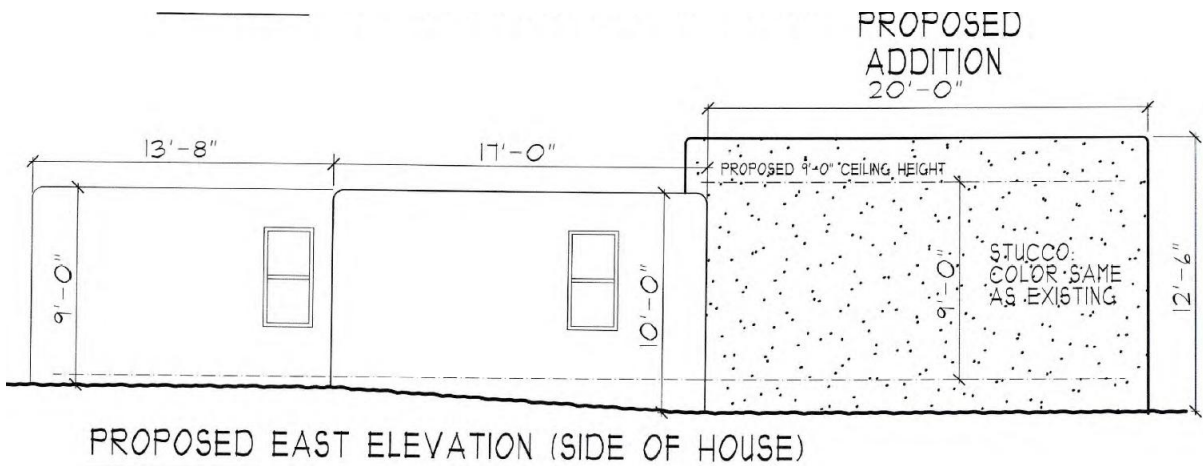


Figure 4. Proposed East Elevation.

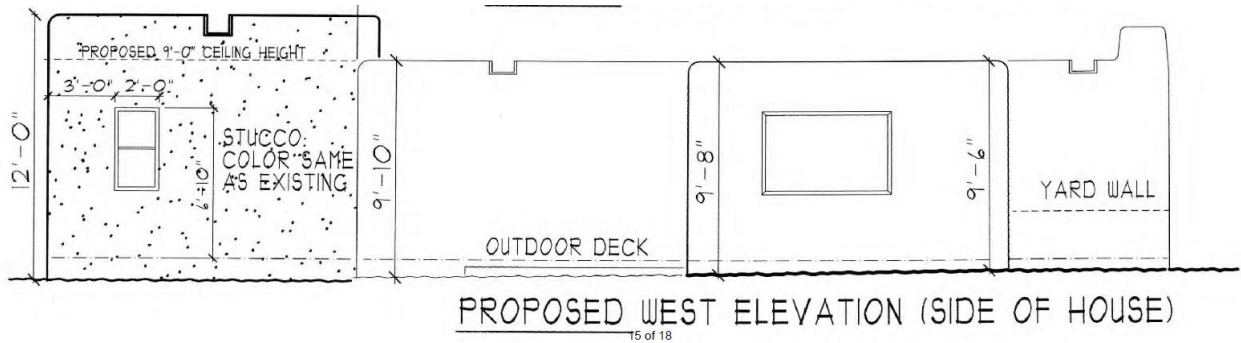


Figure 5. Proposed West Elevation.

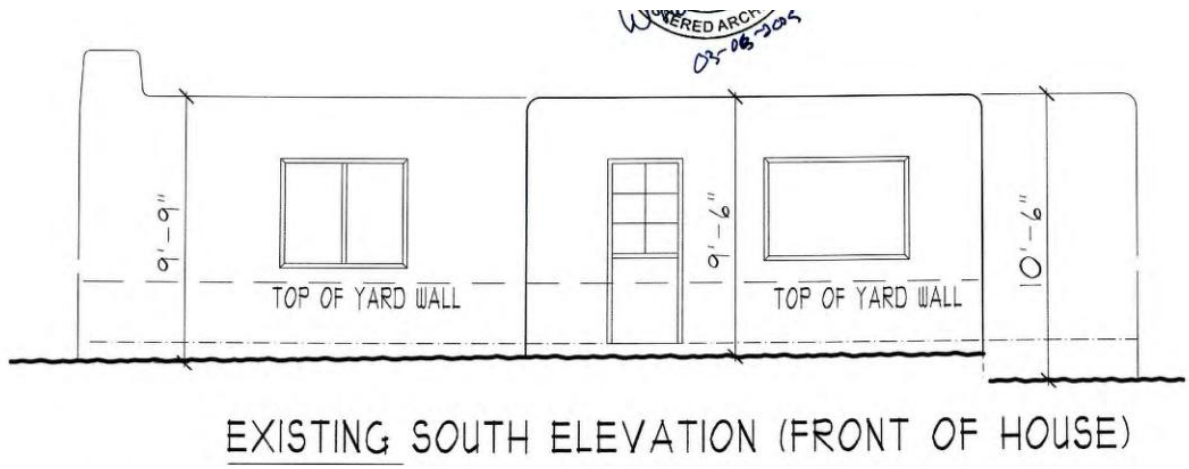


Figure 6. Primary Facade.

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.

(D) General Design Standards for All H Districts

In any review of proposed additions or alterations to *structures* that have been declared significant or contributing in any historic district or a *landmark* in any part of the *city*, the following standards shall be met:

(1) General

- (a) The status of a significant, contributing, or *landmark structure* shall be retained and preserved. If a proposed alteration will cause a *structure* to lose its significant, contributing, or *landmark* status, the *application* shall be denied. The removal of historic materials or alteration of architectural features and spaces that embody the status shall be prohibited.

- (b) If a proposed alteration or new construction will cause an adjacent *structure* to lose its significant, contributing, or *landmark* status, the *application* may be denied.

(2) Additions

- (a) Additions shall have similar materials, architectural *treatments* and styles, features, and details as the existing *structure*, but shall not duplicate those of the existing *structure* in a manner that will make the addition indistinguishable from the existing *structure*.
- (b) Additions to *buildings* that meet the standards of Subsection 14-5.2(E) shall continue to meet those standards set forth in Subsection 14-5.2(E) in addition to the standards set forth in this section.
- (c) Additions are not permitted to *primary façades*.
- (d) Additions are not permitted to the side of the existing footprint unless the addition is set back a minimum of ten (10) feet from the primary facade. The addition shall not exceed fifty percent of the square footage of the existing footprint, and shall not exceed fifty percent of the existing dimension of the primary facade. To the extent architecturally practicable, new additions shall be attached to any existing noncontributing portion of *structures* instead of attaching them to the significant or contributing portion.
- (e) The height of additions:
 - (i) For significant and *landmark structures* shall be a minimum of six (6) inches less than the parapet or equivalent roof-feature of the existing adjacent connecting facade.
 - (ii) For contributing *structures* shall be no more than one additional *story* higher than the existing *structure*. To the extent architecturally practicable, two-story additions shall be set to the rear or the side rear of the *structure*. When an additional *story* is to be placed upon an existing contributing *structure*, that footprint may be no greater than fifty percent of the footprint of the existing *structure*, subject to the provisions of Subsection A(1) above. For the purposes of this paragraph, an additional *story* shall not exceed twelve (12) feet from the existing rooftop to the highest point of that *story*.

(3) Remodeling to Increase Height; Rooftop Appurtenances

- (a) For *remodeling* of existing significant and *landmark structures*, no increase in height of the *structures* is permitted. (For standards relating to additions to existing *structures*, see paragraph (2) above.)
- (b) For significant and *landmark structures*, *publicly visible* roof top appurtenances, including but not limited to solar collectors, clerestories, decks, or mechanical equipment, shall not be added nor shall the parapet be raised to conceal the *rooftop appurtenances*. For contributing *buildings* solar collectors, clerestories, decks, or mechanical equipment if *publicly visible* shall not be added.

(4) Porches and Portals

Existing *porches* or *portals* shall not be enclosed.

(5) Windows, Doors, and Other Architectural Features

- (a) For all facades of significant and *landmark structures* and for the primary facades of contributing *structures*:
 - (i) Historic windows shall be repaired or restored wherever possible. Historic windows that cannot be repaired or restored shall be duplicated in the size, style, and material of the original. Thermal double pane glass may be used. No opening shall be widened or narrowed.
 - (ii) No new opening shall be made where one presently does not exist unless historic documentation supports its prior existence.
 - (iii) No existing opening shall be closed.
- (b) For all façades of significant, contributing and *landmark structures*, architectural features, finishes, and details other than doors and windows, shall be repaired rather than replaced. In the event *replacement* is necessary, the use of new material may be approved. The new material shall match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities. *Replacement* or duplication of missing features shall be substantiated by documentation, physical or pictorial evidence.

(6) Roofs

The existing roof styles and materials shall be maintained or replaced in kind if necessary. The addition of dormers or other roof features should only be considered when they are an existing or historical feature of the *structure*.

(8) Archaeological Resources

Discovery of archaeological resources made during the historic districts review process shall be referred to the archaeological review committee.

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

The height, pitch, *scale*, and massing of any *structure* in an historic district, as defined in this section, shall be limited as provided for in this section, unless further restricted within this chapter.

(a) Applicability

The following sections identify specific areas and specific *projects* subject to this section. Planning and land use department staff shall determine whether or not properties are included within this section. (Ord. No. 2007-45 § 30; Ord. #2020-22, § 16)

- F. When the proposed *building*, *yardwall*, or fence is located in a *streetscape* that includes no *buildings*, *yardwalls*, or fences, the height of the proposed *building* shall not exceed sixteen (16) feet. *Yardwalls* and fences in this *streetscape* shall not exceed five (5) feet in height.

(c) Height

- (ii) In exercising its authority under this section, the board shall limit the height of *structures* as set forth in this section. Heights of existing *structures* shall be as set forth on the official map of *building* heights in the historic districts.
- A. If a proposed *building* has a parapet, the façade shall not be in excess of two (2) feet of the average of the height of the façades in the *streetscape*.
 - B. If the proposed *building* has a pitched roof, the ridge height of the proposed *building* shall not be in excess of two (2) feet of the average of the ridge height of the pitched roofs in the *streetscape*.
 - C. *Yardwalls* and fences shall be limited to a height that does not exceed the average of the height of other *yardwalls* and fences in the *streetscape*.
 - D. Pursuant to Section 14-7.4(C), the height of any other *structure* shall be limited to the allowable *building* height within the applicable *streetscape*, as defined in this section. (Ord. No. 2002-37 § 26)
 - E. The height and dimension of signage are as set forth in Section 14-8.10(H).
 - F. The board may increase the allowable height for proposed *buildings* and additions located on a sloping site where the difference in the natural *grade* along the *structure's* foundation exceeds two (2) feet. In no case shall the height of a façade exceed four (4) feet above the allowable height of the applicable *streetscape* measured from natural or finished *grade*, whichever is more restrictive. This increase in height shall be constructed only in the form of *building* stepbacks from the *street*.

(d) Pitch

If the determined *streetscape* includes over fifty percent of *buildings* with pitched roofs, the proposed *building* may have a pitched roof. A pitched roof is defined as a gable, shed, or *hipped roof*. The pitch of the roof shall match the predominant pitch extant in the *streetscape*.

(e) Scale

The height of a proposed *building* or addition, its façade length, and its roof form and pitch shall appear to be in proportion to the height, façade length, and roof form and pitch of *buildings* in the applicable *streetscape*, or the *building* on which the addition is proposed.

(f) Massing and Floor Stepbacks

The Board may require that upper floor levels be stepped back, to carry out the intent of this section; provided that the board in making such determinations shall take into account whether the height of the proposed *building*, *yardwall*, fence, or proposed stepback of upper floor levels is in harmony with the massing of the applicable *streetscape* and *preservation* of the historic and characteristic visual

qualities of the *streetscape*. The Board shall also require that the *publicly visible* façades of the *structure* be in conformance with Subsections 14-5.2(E) through (H), and in meeting those requirements, may require that different floor levels be stepped back.

(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)

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.