

# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

# memo

**DATE:** October 28, 2025

**TO:** Historic Districts Review Board Members

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

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

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**2025-011329-HDRB, 826 Camino del Poniente, Downtown & Eastside Historic District.** Contributing. Martinez Architectural Studio, agent for Larry Colton and John McCoy, owners, requests changes to the previously approved case 2024-007775-HDRB, including the decrease and relocation of the garage, relocating the yard wall gate, enclosing a 49 sq. ft. portion of the new approved portal for heated space, constructing an additional 29 sq. ft. on the west elevation, and installing a new window on the south elevation.

**REFERENCE ATTACHMENTS (Sequentially):**

**CITY SUBMITTALS**

- District Standards & yard wall & fence standards.
- Historic Inventory Form
- Zoning Review Sheet
- Other: case 2024-007775-HDRB documents

**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(E) Downtown and Eastside Design Standards.

## Sample motions:

One motion will be required in this case to either approve or deny the project as submitted.

- a. In case 2025-011329-HDRB, for 826 Camino del Poniente, approve or deny the application as submitted.

The property lies within the Historic Downtown Archaeological Review District. See Chapter 14, SFCC, Article 14-3.13(B)(1). There may be archaeological concerns associated with this project, and archaeological clearance may be required.

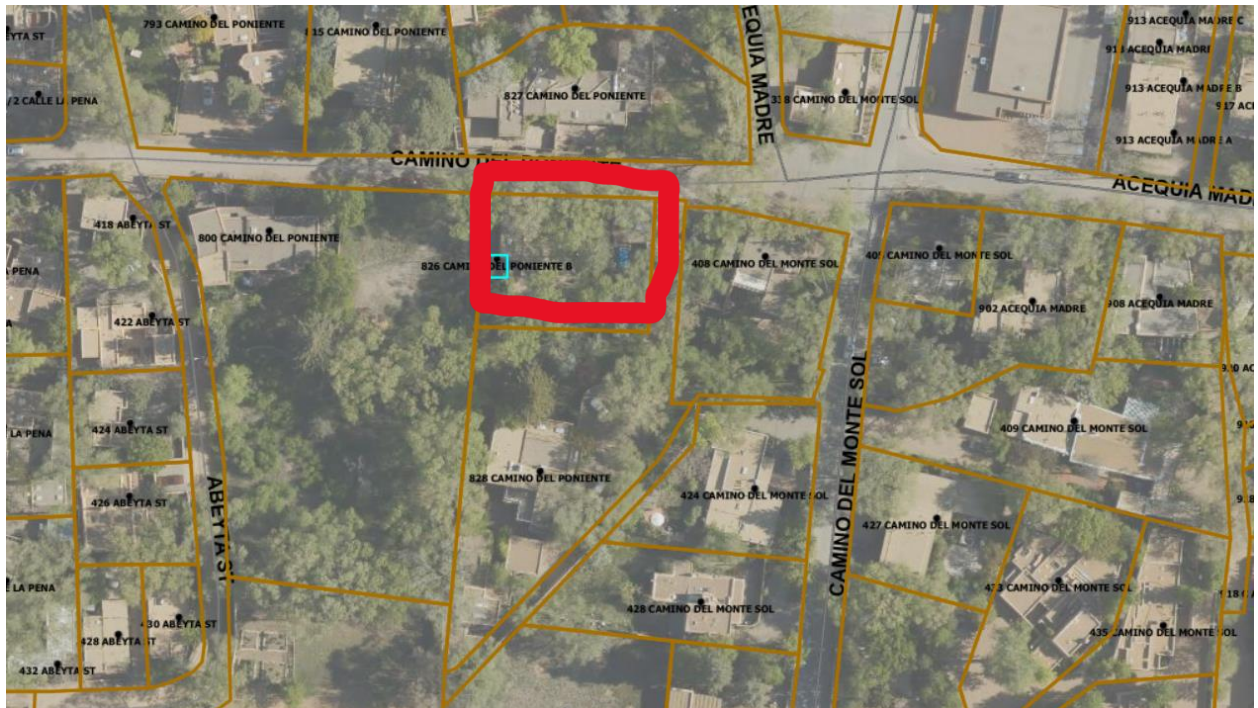


Figure 1: Site Location

## **BACKGROUND & SUMMARY:**

### **Streetscape:**

Camino del Poniente is a short street that runs west of Camino del Monte Sol and terminates at Calle La Pena. The street is lined with medium-to-high-yard walls and coyote fences at each property. The residences are set back about ten feet from the street. The style of residences is Spanish Pueblo Revival with medium to dark brown stucco. The residence at 826 Camino del Poniente is the sole territorial style residence on the streetscape. The colors of the trim tend to be brown, white, or blue. There are a couple of two-story residences, but most are single-story. The street is heavily lined with trees and vegetation in the yards.



Figure 2: Site Image

**Site Description:**

The residence at 826 Camino del Poniente is a single-family residence listed as contributing to the Downtown and Eastside Historic District. The structure is a Territorial Revival-style residence and is a simple rectangle. The south was most likely historically an entrance; however, with the enclosure of the porch, the main entrances are now to the north and the east.

**Property History:**

According to the 1991 historic building inventory form, the structure is believed to have been built in the 1930s; however, it first appeared in the city directory in 1951. The 2,037 sq. ft. residence was originally a guest house for the property located at 828 Camino del Poniente and was owned by the author, Elizabeth De Huff. There is some evidence that the residence was used as a school sometime before 1991.

The north and east elevation architecture is simple and unchanged.

**PREVIOUS CASE SUMMARIES:**

**ARC:**

There is no archaeological clearance issued for this property.

**HDRB:**

A garage was constructed on the north and west elevations sometime before the 1983 survey, though the date of construction has not been confirmed. Since the 1991 survey and before a withdrawn 2000 case, the screened porch on the south elevation was enclosed. No historic case or permit was found for this enclosure of the porch.

On November 14, 2023, the HDRB did a status review of the property and upgraded the residence to contributing and assigned the north façade, excluding the windows and doors, as the primary façade.

On February 13, 2024, the HDRB approved a remodel of the property, including:

East Elevation:

1. Constructing a 675 sq. ft. two-car garage addition to a height of 14'-3". The garage will have 16'-0" wide by 8'-0" high "Carriage" style garage doors. The garage will be separated from the residence by 12'.
2. Constructing a 120 sq. ft. entry portal to a height of 10'-3" that will connect the garage to the current entry door of the existing house. Portal floors will be brick.

West Elevation

3. Constructing a 103 sq. ft. addition at the same height as the existing house in the southwest corner of the residence and 33' from the primary facade. No windows or doors will be installed in this addition.

Property:

4. Constructing a 5'-4" high stuccoed yard wall running along the west of the driveway that connects to the new garage entry gate at the south of the driveway to the existing coyote fencing along the street to the north.
5. Installing a 9'-0" high entry wall with a pedestrian gate at the northern end of the west side of the garage. The gate will be a 3'-8" wide by 6'-8" tall plank wood gate with an exposed wood lintel.

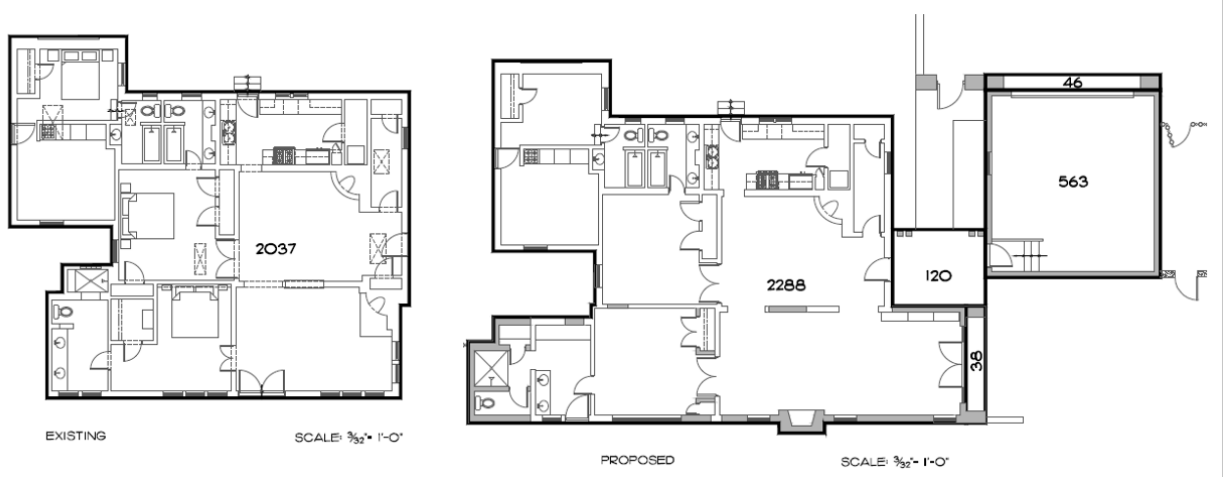


Figure 3: February 13, 2024, existing and approved floor plans

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

A 6'-0" high yard wall and a 6'-0" high coyote fence were approved on June 14, 2006.

**APPLICANT'S REQUEST:**

The applicant proposes the following changes to the previous case 2024-007775-HDRB:

1. Decrease the approved garage from 675 sq. ft. to 516 sq. ft. and relocate the approved garage about 18 inches from the east property line to save several significant trees.
2. Decrease the covered area at the garage to 27 sq. ft. from 51 sq. ft. as a result of the garage

- size change
3. Enclosing a 49 sq. ft. portion of the new approved portal for heated space, decreasing the portal to 114 sq. ft.
  4. Increasing the 103 sq. ft. addition on the west elevation by 29 sq. ft. for a total addition of 132 sq. ft.
  5. Install a new window on the south elevation.
  6. Relocate the yard wall and pedestrian gate to the west to accommodate the new garage location.

There are no other changes to the overall project at this time. The design will remain as previously approved. Please see the case documents for further reference.

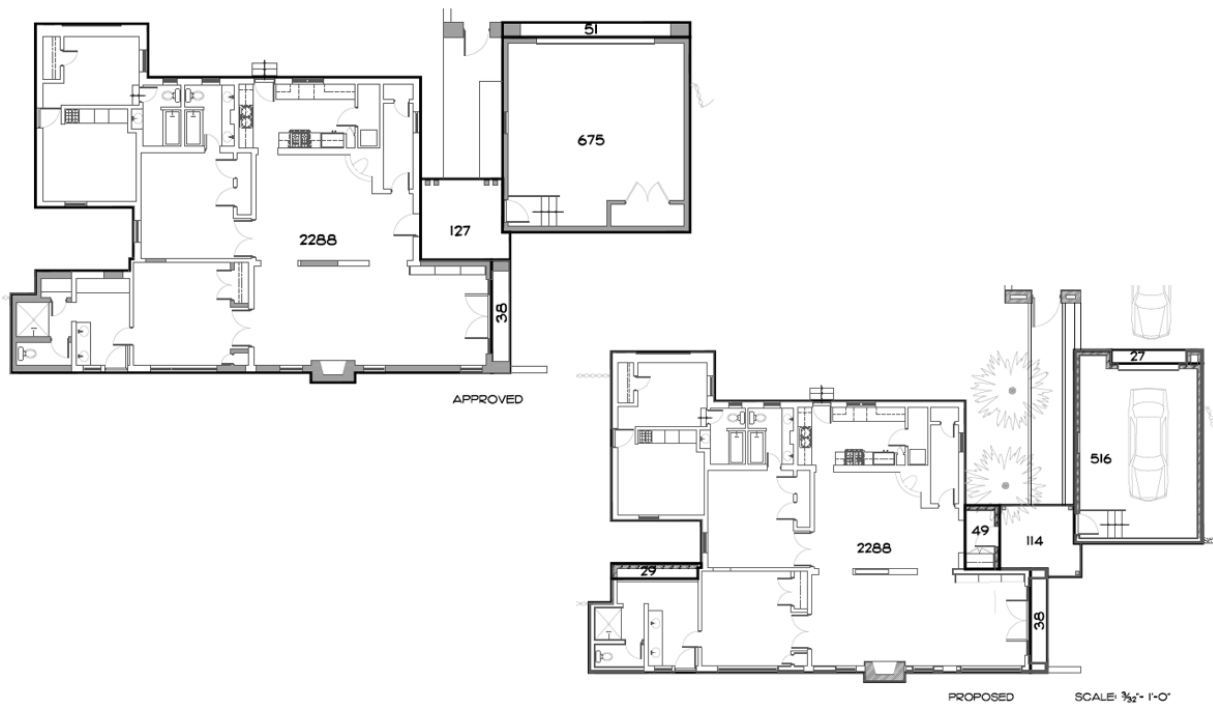


Figure 4: 2024 approved and current proposed floor plans

## **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* rooftop 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 Step backs

The height, pitch, *scale*, and massing of any *structure* in a 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*, *yard wall*, or fence is located in a *streetscape* that includes no *buildings*, *yard walls*, or fences, the height of the proposed *building* shall not exceed sixteen (16) feet. *Yard walls* 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. *Yard walls* and fences shall be limited to a height that does not exceed the average of the height of other *yard walls* 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* step-backs 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 Step backs

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*, *yard wall*, fence, or proposed step back 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.

**(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 aials, 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 complementary 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.