

# 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  
Gary Moquino, Historic Preservation Division Manager, GM

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

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2025-011227-HDRB, 925 Canyon Rd., Downtown & Eastside Historic District, non-contributing, Trey Jordon, agent for John and Mary Ann Vigil and Concepcion Lujan, owners, requests a 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:

**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 and west façades of the original 1950s building as primary (R3 and R4), excluding the non-historic windows and non-historic portal, per 14-5.2(C) Designation of Significant, Contributing or Noncontributing Status Within Historic Districts.

**Sample motions:**

One motion will be required in this case. One motion is required for the designation of the residence and assignment of primary facade(s).

- a. In case 2025-011227-HDRB, for 925 Canyon Road, upgrade the main residence, as significant, designating all facades as primary.
- b. In case 2025-011227-HDRB, for 925 Canyon Road, upgrade the main residence as contributing and designate facades (R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, and/or R6) as primary facade(s).
- c. In case 2025-011227-HDRB, for 925 Canyon Road, retain the main residence as non-contributing.

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: Property Location

**BACKGROUND & SUMMARY:**

**Streetscape:**

The streetscape for the property is defined as extending from the intersection at Acequia Madre to just past Palace, approximately halfway to Camino del Monte Sol. The streetscape consists of a park and a combination of residential and commercial properties. The street has a sidewalk on the north side of the road at the eastern end, and a walking path at the side of the road through the remaining streetscape. There is no walking area on the south side of the road. Fencing is a combination of styles with a wood fence at the park, rock walls, stucco walls, combinations of stone and stucco, wire, and non-stuccoed CMU walls, coyote fencing, and some walls with latillas on top. There are some taller walls and fences at 87” to 188” in height, as well as some very low walls and fences at 35” to 40”. The street average is 60”.

The lots in the streetscape vary in size. The buildings are set back from the street by three to ten feet, with most of them within five feet of the street. There are commercial structures located at the western end of the streetscape, with the residential at the eastern and central. The south side of the road is mostly Spanish Pueblo Revival style buildings with a few Territorial style buildings. The north side is characterized by primarily vernacular buildings with a few pitched roofs and a few Spanish Pueblo Revival style.



Figure 2: Street View of Residence

**Site Description:**

The residence at 925 Canyon Road is a non-contributing vernacular style two-story structure in the Downtown and Eastside Historic District. The 1,558 sq. ft. home that was constructed sometime between 1950 and 1958 and is located on 0.203 acres.

The residence sits at the front of the lot and faces south. The residence is constructed of a combination of concrete block and adobe with block massing, crisp edges, a pronounced seamed metal fascia, deep inset windows, which are mostly aluminum slider windows, three exterior single-leaf doors, and a flat asphalt roof. The north elevation holds the two-story portion of the

structure, as this is the lower portion of the sloped lot, which was constructed sometime between 1958 and 1966. The north elevation houses various-sized windows and a small entry door, and the early 1970s laundry room addition at the northwest corner. The east elevation houses aluminum sliding windows except for the one steel casement in the basement. The south, street-facing elevation consists of the core 1950s construction with a central entry flanked by windows. The 15-panel door is covered by a decorative security grille. The windows are aluminum sliding units conforming to the rest of the residence. A non-historic 1984 plywood porch with a shed roof is located on the south elevation and wraps around to the west elevation. The west elevation, while part of the 1950s core structure, has been altered with additions and the porch. The chimney that bumps out is part of the original structure. The early 1970s laundry room addition introduced a new entry into the building and houses a single aluminum sliding window under the portal. The west and south elevations of the residence are obscured by a concrete masonry unit wall at a height that ranges from 5'-9" and 6'-10". This wall was constructed sometime before 1973, but after 1966.

The rear of the lot is mostly dirt and is used for parking. There is a non-historic open shed at the very rear of the lot.

The lot was previously farmland where squash and other vegetables were grown. Edward and Mary Vigil were deeded the land from Edward's father in 1961. Edward's father had been deeded the land in 1957 by Edward's grandmother, Betriz Vigil. The property was part of the Vigil family going back to Edward's great-grandfather, Simon Vigil. It is unknown when Simon Vigil acquired the land because the 1897-98 White's map shows the larger property owned by Francisco Sena. Mary passed away in 2015, and Edward remained in the home until he passed away in 2021. The property was deeded to their three children.

According to the 2025 HCPI, the Vigil family history with the property is important, and the residence is more than fifty years old, but the building does not have any historic or distinctive character, nor any historic integrity, because there have been too many additions that underscore the integrity and identity of the building.

Staff disagree with the HCPI recommendation. All of the additions on the property are historic outside of the portals. The original 1950s adobe section of the building has deep inset fenestrations and is characteristic of the buildings on this streetscape. The additions with two stories at the base of the hill are typical of the time these additions were constructed and are characteristic of this streetscape. Staff finds that this structure contributes to this streetscape.

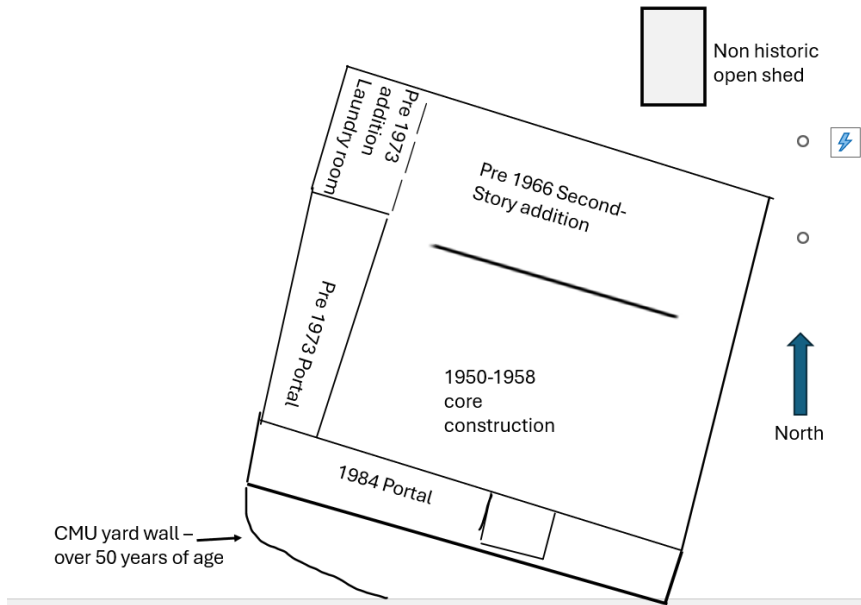


Figure 3: Construction Dates

**PREVIOUS CASE SUMMARIES:**

**ARC:**

No Archaeological clearance has been issued for this property.

**HDRB:**

No previous cases on file in the Historic Preservation Division.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

No previous cases on file in the Historic Preservation Division.

**APPLICANT’S REQUEST:**

The applicant requests:

- 1) Status review with primary façade designation of the residential structure.

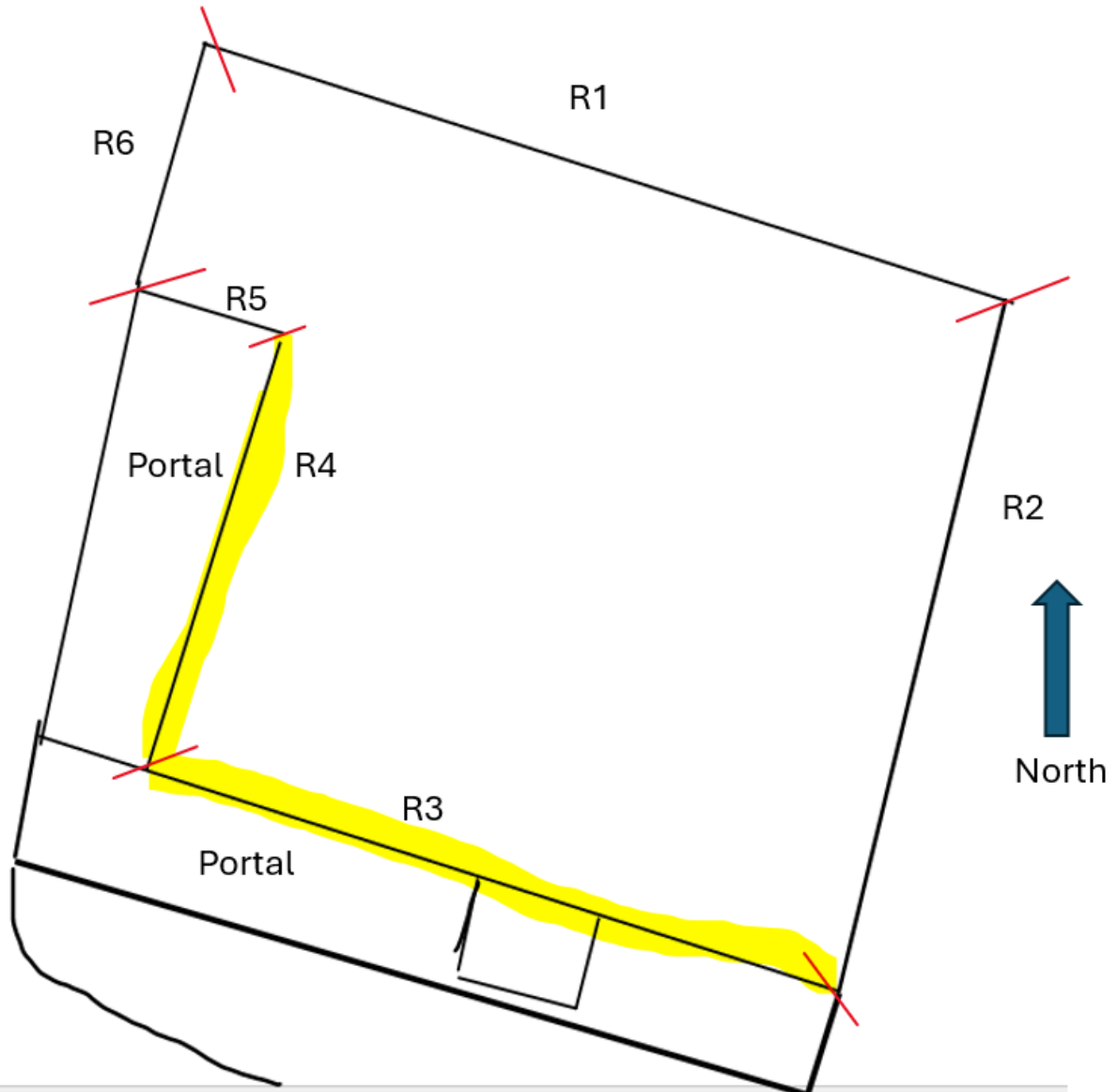


Figure 4: Façade Diagram

**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.

#### 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.

### (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 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.