

City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

memo

DATE: April 14, 2026
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
FROM: Amanda L. Romero, Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Division ALR

2026-012128-HDRB. 640 Camino de la Luz., Downtown & Eastside Historic District, non-contributing, Jeffrey Seres, agent for Debbie Utley, owner, requests status review with primary façade designation, if applicable.

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: 2026 HCPI

REFERENCE ATTACHMENTS

(Sequentially):

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the historic status of the structure be upgraded to contributing with facades # 1, #5(excluding non-historic window), #8, #9, and #10 #11(excluding non-historic material) as primary per 14-04.06(C) Designation of Significant, Contributing or Noncontributing Status Within Historic Districts.

Sample motions:

One motion will be required for this case

Status (for each structure):

- a. In case 2025-012128-HDRB, for 640 Camino de la Luz, maintains the residence as non-contributing.
- b. In case 2025-012128-HDRB for 640 Camino de la Luz, upgrade status to contributing with facades with facades # 1, #5(excluding non-historic window), #8, #9, #10 and #11(excluding non-historic material) as primary.

The property lies within the Suburban 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.

BACKGROUND & SUMMARY:

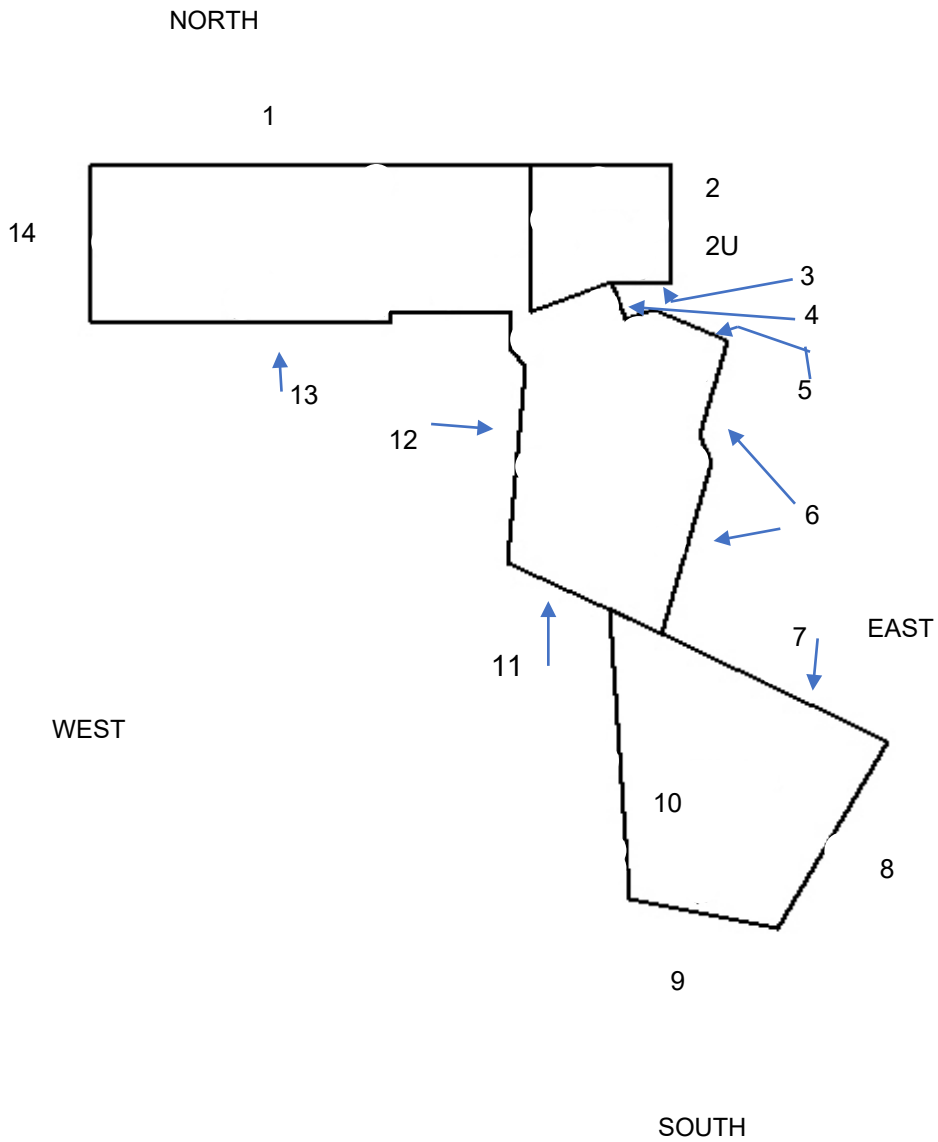
Site Description:

This property is located in the Downtown and Eastside Historic Districts. The residential structure's footprint was est. by 1960. The buildings are set back far from the street. The characteristics of the facades are as follows: The structure has 3 large housing masses, illustrating growth and evolution over time. The status of the building is currently non-contributing. Characteristics of the facades are summarized below:

Facades

1. Inset header over divided lite window, and large massing.
2. Bottom Floor, Inset header, casement window two 1/3 side lite.
- 2U: Upper Floor, Undulated parapet Single French door, picture window, 2/2 divided lite, facing the balcony with iron railing.
- 3: Large massing not fenestration
- 4: Massing, stone coping
- 5: Inset header single window, stone coping, round turret in appearance
- 6: Inset header, new slider window smaller than previous window open. Casement window 6/4 with 2/4 side lites, header removed. Undulated parapet. Stone chimney redesigned and stuccoed over.
- 7: No substantial features
- 8: stone buttress, and door surround double wooden door
- 9: Stone base, one inset window and header 2/3 true divided lite window
- West 10: Outdoor living area covered with portal mixture of square and round columns and round vigas, chimney, pony stone wall.
- 11: No header, one 4/2 divided lite window, chimney,
- 12: Three windows, flat parapet, stuccoed chimney
- 13: Lattilla freestanding portal, stone coping, small 2/2 window, entry door with header, 5/3 casement window with two 2/3 side lites, viga bumps that have been stuccoed over. One small window in large massing. NP
- 14: Stone coping, rounded bullnose

Façade Diagram



PREVIOUS CASE SUMMARIES:

2005 HCPI (not adopted)

ADMINISTRATIVE:

HDRBAA-2194-(Stucco)

2025-011523-ADMIN (Re-roof)

APPLICANT'S REQUEST:

The applicant proposes the following exterior alterations:

- 1) Status Review with primary façade designation, if applicable, for a residential structure.

RELEVANT CODE CITATIONS:

14-4.6 HISTORIC DISTRICTS

A. General Provisions

I. Purpose

In order to promote the economic, cultural, and general welfare of the people of Santa Fe and to ensure the harmonious, orderly, and efficient growth and development of the City, the Governing Body deems it essential to preserve the qualities relating to the history and culture of Santa Fe, maintain a harmonious outward appearance in order to preserve property values, and attract residents and tourists alike. The specific purposes of this section are to preserve qualities relating to the history of Santa Fe, such as the following:

- I. Continue the existence and preservation of historic areas and buildings;
- II. Continued construction of buildings in Santa Fe's historic styles; and
- III. General harmony as to architectural style, form, color, height, proportion, texture, and material between buildings of historic design and those of more modern design.

B. Buildings with Significant or Contributing Historic Status

I. Purpose

Historic designation is intended to address the following:

- I. Recognizing each structure as a physical record of its time, place, and use.
- II. Preventing changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as the addition of conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings;
- III. Preserving and retaining changes to structures that have acquired historic importance in their own right, recognizing that most structures change over time;

- IV. Preserving distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a structure; and
 - V. Avoiding making new additions and related or adjacent new construction 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
- I. Status Designation

Structures within historic districts may be designated a status of "significant," "contributing," or "noncontributing," as defined in Section 14-9.3, *General Definitions*. Staff shall maintain a record as to the current status of structures located in the historic districts.
 - II. HDRB Authority to Review Status Designation
 - a. The HDRB may change the status of a structure or to designate a status for a structure that has no status designated.
 - b. 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."
 - c. When the HDRB designates a structure as contributing, it shall also specify which facades of the structure are primary.
 - III. Initiation of Review of Status Designation

The Board may review the status designation in response to the following: :

 - a. An application for construction or demolition as set forth in Section 14-5.2 as follows:
 - 1. Prior to the application being placed on a board agenda or prior to issuance of a construction permit, if Board approval is not required, staff shall determine whether the board should review the status of the structure. Staff's determination shall be made within thirty days of submitting the application. If staff's determination is not completed within thirty days, the application shall be forwarded to the board. Review by the board as to the structure's status shall be made at the earliest practicable date. The board or staff (as applicable) may consider the application immediately following the determination of status. The application shall be reviewed based upon the status of the structure following the determination of status.
 - 2. Prior to action by the board on the application, the board itself may decide to review the status of the structure. The board's determination as to the status shall be made within forty-five days of the decision of the board to review the status. The board or staff (as applicable) may consider the application immediately following the determination of the status. The application shall be reviewed based upon the status of the structure following the determination of status.

- b. Request from the property owner;
 - c. A request initiated by the city. Staff shall notify the property owner prior to initiating the request.
- IV. Notice of HDRB's Review of Status
- a. Unless the review is requested by the property owner, staff shall mail notice to the property owner of the subject property no less than 15 days prior to the HDRB's review of a change in or designation of status.
 - b. In addition, staff shall send notice, by first class mail, to all property owners within one hundred (100) feet of the subject property no less than fifteen days prior to the board's review of a change in or designation of status if the review may result in the lowering of the structure's status. Staff shall retain an affidavit of mailing.
 - c. With the consent of the property owner, the city shall have posted on the property a poster obtained from the planning land use department. Otherwise, the city shall post the poster on the nearest place available to the city. Such poster shall be securely posted, prominently displayed, visible from a public street, at least fourteen days prior to the scheduled board hearing. The posting shall indicate the nature of the application, identification of the property affected and the time, date and place of the hearing. The poster shall be removed within thirty days of final action. Failure to do so may result in the city removing the sign at the applicant's expense. A civil fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) will be charged.

NONCONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE

A structure, located in a historic district, that is less than 50 years old or that does not exhibit sufficient historic integrity to establish and maintain the character of the Historic district.

CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE

A structure, located in a historic district, approximately 50 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.

SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURE

A structure located in a historic district that is approximately 50 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 for its association with events or persons that are important on a local, regional, national or global level; or 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.

PRIMARY FACADE

One or more principal faces or elevations of a building with features that define the character of the building's architecture.

G. G Additional District-Specific Design Standards

2. Downtown and Eastside Historic District

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. Facades are flat, varied by inset portales, exterior portales, projecting vigas or roof beams, canales or water-sprouts, 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, open 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 rules as to flat roofs shall not be constructed 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.

II. 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.

