

# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

# memo

**DATE:** June 9, 2026

**TO:** Historic Districts Review Board Members

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

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

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**2026-012487-HDRB. 998 Acequia Madre. Downtown & Eastside Historic District. Non-contributing.** Mark Brown, agent for Lisa Ronningen-Brown, owner, proposes to construct a 426 sq. ft. freestanding carport to a height of 9'-7".

**REFERENCE ATTACHMENTS (Sequentially):**

**CITY SUBMITTALS**

District Standards & yard wall  
& fence standards.

Historic Inventory Form

Zoning Review Sheet

Other: previous case 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 14-4.6(E) General Design Standards for all Historic Districts and Section 14-4.6(G)(2) Downtown and Eastside Design Standards.

**Sample motions:**

- a. In case 2026-012487-HDRB, for 998 Acequia Madre, approve or deny the application as submitted.

The property lies within the Historic Downtown Archaeological Review District. See Chapter 14, SFCC, Article 14-14-4.2(D). There may be archaeological concerns associated with this project, and archaeological clearance may be required if the surface disturbance exceeds 2,500 square feet.

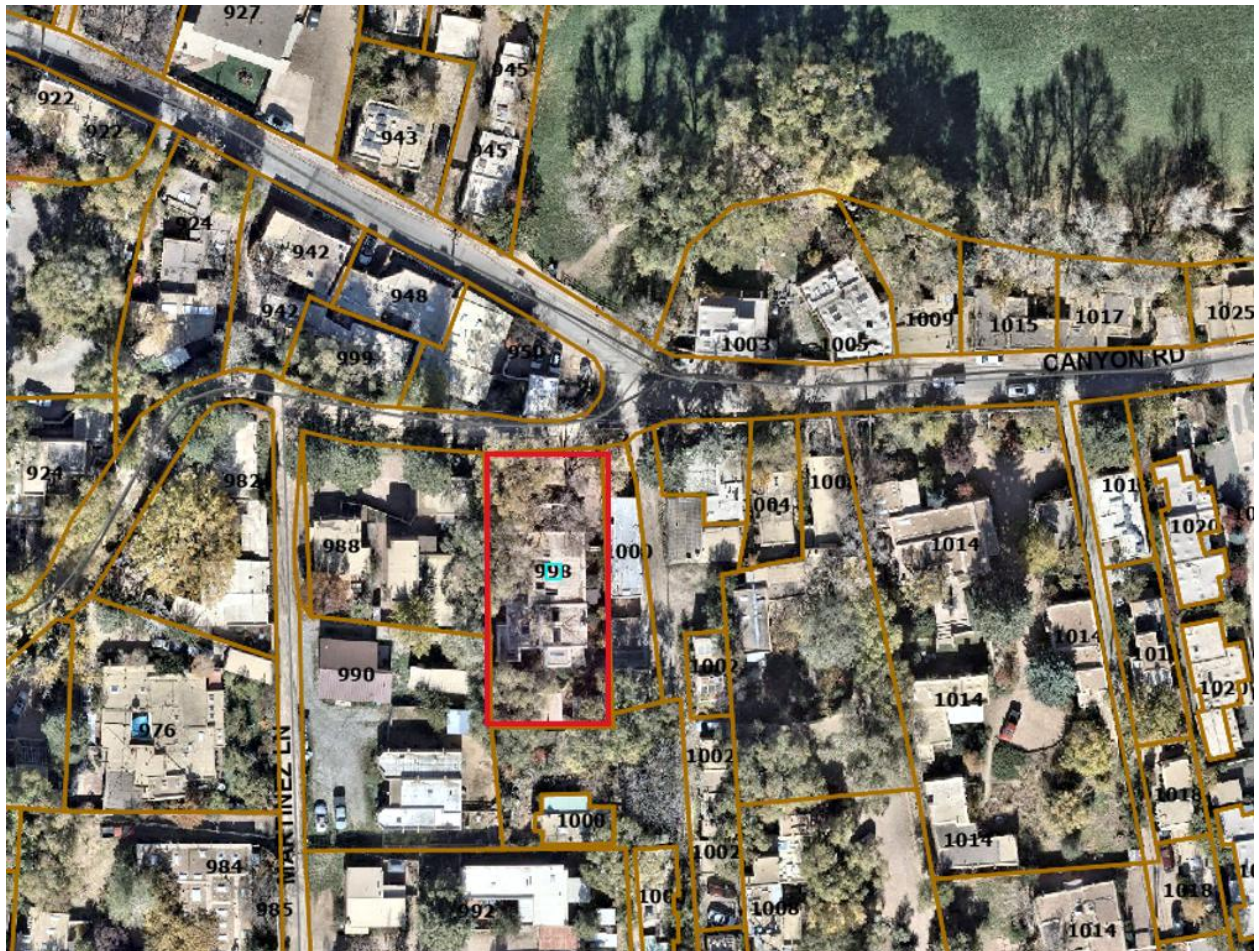


Figure 1: Property Location

**BACKGROUND & SUMMARY:**

**Site Description:**

The Spanish Pueblo Revival style residence and guest house at 998 Acequia Madre were constructed before 1940 and are listed as non-contributing to the Downtown and Eastside Historic District.

The property received a status review and designation of status for the residence and guest house under case H-17-078 in 2017. A remodel was approved in 2017, which included increasing the height, constructing a portal, window and door changes, and a new chimney on the main residence. The alterations to the guest house included a new portal and window replacement.



Figure 2: Streetview of Property

**PREVIOUS CASE SUMMARIES:**

**ARC:**

No archaeological clearance has been issued for this property.

**HDRB:**

H-17-078A In a status review, the HDRB designated both the house and the guest house as non-contributing due to the number of alterations on the property.

H-17-078 The HDRB approved increasing the height, constructing a portal, window, and door changes, and a new chimney on the main residence, and a new portal and window replacement on the guest house.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Administratively approved items for this property include walls and fences, a mini-split system, and window replacements in 2017 and 2018.

**APPLICANT'S REQUEST:**

The applicant proposes to:

- 1) Construct a 426 sq. ft. freestanding carport to a height of 9'-7". The carport will be constructed of stuccoed masonry columns, exposed wood beams and corbels, and a stuccoed parapet. The roof will be sloped with TPO in a tan color. The parking surface will be brick on sand. The stucco will be cementitious "fawn" to match the residence.

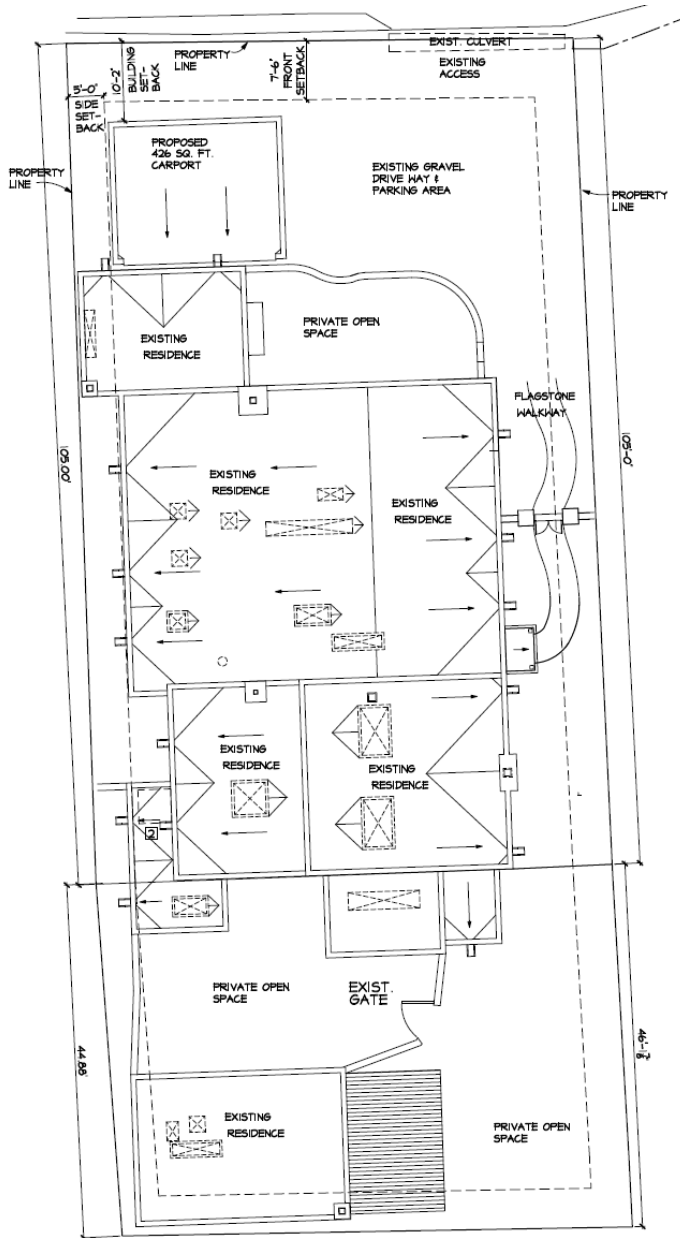


Figure 3: Proposed Site Plan

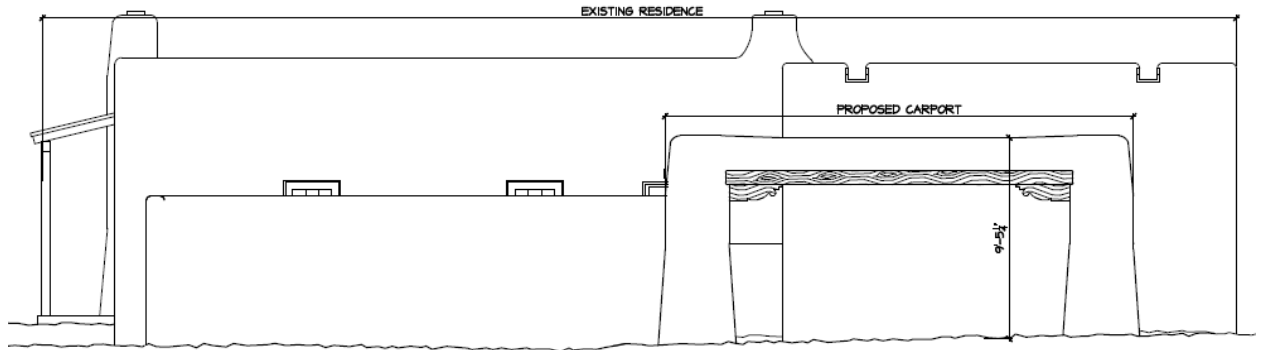


Figure 4: Proposed North Street Facing Elevation

**RELEVANT CODE CITATIONS:**

**14-4.6 HISTORIC DISTRICTS**

**A. General Provisions**

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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 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.
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**C. Buildings with Significant or Contributing Historic Status**

3. Review by Historic Districts Review Board Required

- I. Except where this chapter provides for review by staff, the HDRB shall review all applications for new construction, alteration, or demolition in the historic districts and of landmark structures throughout the city, based on the standards set forth in this section.
- II. The historic board shall judge any proposed alteration or new

structure for harmony with adjacent buildings, preservation of historical and characteristic qualities, and conformity to the standards for architectural style set forth in this section.

- III. The HDRB may approve, deny, approve with conditions, or, with the consent of the applicant, postpone an application.
  - a. For applications approved with conditions, no permit shall be issued until the HDRB conditions have been met.
  - b. An application that is postponed shall be heard at a date agreed upon by the HDRB and the applicant.
- IV. No permit shall be issued until the time for appeal to the Governing Body has expired.

3. Compliance with General and Specific Design Standards Required

All development located within the historic districts and subject to this section shall comply with all applicable general development standards set forth in Section 14-4.6E, *General Design Standards for All Historic Districts*, as well as any applicable specific development standards set forth in Section 14-4.6G, *Additional District-Specific Design Standards*.

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**E. General Design Standards for All Historic Districts**

These standards shall apply to all additions or alterations to existing structures in the Historic Districts. Contributing, significant, and landmark structures may be subject to specific additional restrictions and district-specific standards in Section 14-4.6(G).

I. General

- I. The historic status of a property with a historic status designation of significant, contributing, or landmark structure shall be retained and preserved. If a proposed alteration will cause a property 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 is prohibited.
- II. If a proposed alteration or new construction will cause an adjacent property to lose its significant, contributing, or landmark status, the application may be denied.
- III. For the regulations of this subsection, all facades of a significant structure are primary facades.

2. Building Additions

I. Design

- a. Building additions that meet the standards of Section 14-4.6G.2), *Downtown and Eastside Historic District*, shall continue to meet those standards, in addition to the standards set forth in this section.
  - b. Building additions shall have similar materials, architectural treatments and styles, features, and details as the existing structure, but shall be distinguishable from and not attempt to duplicate the existing structure.
- II. Size and Location
- a. Building additions are not permitted on primary facades.
  - b. All building additions shall be set back a minimum of ten feet from the primary facade.
  - c. Building additions shall not exceed 50 percent of the square footage of the building's historic footprint and shall not exceed 50 percent of the historic length in linear feet of the primary façade.
  - d. To the extent architecturally practicable, new building additions shall be attached to any existing non-primary facade of a structure rather than attaching them to the primary facade of a structure.
- III. Height
- a. The maximum height of building additions to significant and landmark structures shall be at least six inches lower than the parapet or equivalent roof feature of the existing adjacent connecting facade.
  - b. Building additions to 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.
- IV. Remodeling to Increase Height
- a. For remodeling of an existing significant or landmark structure, no increase in height of the structure is permitted.
  - b. For remodeling an existing contributing structure, a height increase may be permitted through approval of an exception, as described in Section 14-4.6D.

V. Rooftop Equipment

Rooftop equipment, including but not limited to solar collectors, clerestories, decks, or mechanical equipment, may only be installed on contributing and noncontributing structures and shall not be publicly visible, nor shall a parapet be raised to conceal such equipment.

3. Porches and Portals

Existing porches or portals on significant and landmark structures, and on primary facades of contributing structures, shall not be permanently enclosed.

4. Windows, Doors, and Other Architectural Features

I. For all facades of significant and landmark structures and for the primary facades of contributing structures:

- a. 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 window opening shall be widened or narrowed.
- b. Window depth and other characteristics of window and door fenestration shall be preserved.
- c. No new opening shall be made where one presently does not exist unless historic documentation supports its prior existence.
- d. No historic opening shall be closed.

II. For all facades of contributing, significant, and landmark structures:

- a. Architectural features, finishes, and details other than doors and windows shall be repaired rather than replaced.
- b. 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.
- c. Replacement or duplication of missing features shall be substantiated by documentation, physical, or pictorial evidence.

5. Roofs

The existing historic 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 historic feature of the structure.

6. Surface Cleaning

The surface cleaning of structures shall employ the gentlest means possible. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials are not permitted.

7. Archaeological Resources

Discovery of archaeological resources made during the development of a historic property shall be referred to the Archaeological Review Committee. See Section 14-2.1G.1.V.c, *Unexpected Discoveries*.

8. Signs

9. Murals

10. Pedestrian-Oriented Areas

## **G. Additional District-Specific Design Standards**

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### **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. Facade 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 no more than thirty (30) inches of overhang.