



HISTORIC SANTA FE

The Newsletter of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation

Discovery Leads to New Plan

We reported to you over the last several years our intention is to restore El Zaguán to mud plaster. After removing concrete plaster from the entrance several years ago we extended our efforts to the west end of the building this summer. Beneath the concrete we made a discovery that changed our minds on the final finish.

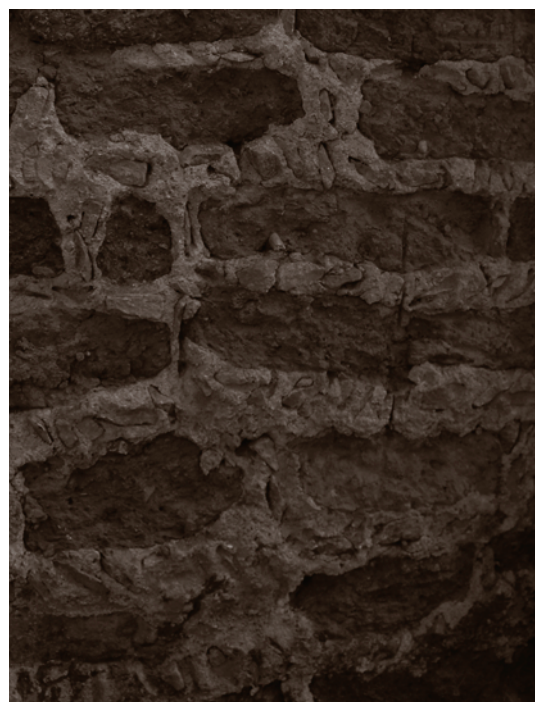
We discovered a fastening system rarely seen in New Mexico. Referred to as *rajuelar* in Mexico where it is common, it is an anchoring system where the mud mortar joints in the adobe are replaced with stones set in lime mortar. This provides a regular course for the subsequent lime plaster to adhere.

Speaking to its rarity in New Mexico, Mike Taylor of Cornerstones wrote in an email, “*we started incorporating the rajuelar system in our lime plaster at Doña Ana after our workshops with Mexico’s INAH (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia). We documented about half a dozen lime plastered buildings in the Mesilla Valley concerned that they disappear someday. Of all the buildings there was only one that had the lime plaster rajuelar system. The Socorro Mission also had this system, but the only place it had survived was on the arch of the bell tower.*”

We quickly assembled a meeting of our property committee to analyze our findings. It was determined that during the period of interpretation (the era to which we are restoring) from the early 1900s to the early 1930s, the building was plastered in lime.

Kate Chapman, who is credited with performing restoration work on El Zaguán in the late 1920s and early 30s, was a great proponent of lime. In 1930 she wrote a book, with Dorothy Stewart as illustrator, entitled “*Adobe Notes*” subtitled “*or How to Keep the Weather Out with Just Plain Mud.*” One chapter is devoted to lime. (You can read this on our website at www.historicsantafe.com)

After numerous site visits, analysis and discussion, the property committee determined that lime plaster was the appropriate finish. Beyond its stability its greatest virtue is that it is breathable – essential to the health of the building. Especially important with older adobe buildings like El Zaguán where adobes were laid directly on a stone foundation where it wicks



Detail of rajuelar, an anchoring system where the mud mortar joints in the adobe are replaced with stones set in lime mortar. Photo by Ian Daitz

water that needs to dissipate. It is well known among preservation professionals that non-breathable cement plasters are detrimental under such conditions.

El Zaguán is still 75 percent covered in cement plaster further insulted by elastomeric paint. With work being performed in house by HSFF staff at a committed pace it will take several years to correct this condition. Before the summer is over, please come by to see the work – work supported with your generous contributions.



Ann Murdy and Jack Pressler. Photos by Hope Curtis.



The luminous Mathilde Bird brightened the party.



HSSF Summer research assistant Michelle Quintana chats with El Zaguán resident artist Teresa Neptune.



Elaine Bergman, executive director Historic Santa Fe Foundation and Rici Peterson, executive director Santa Fe Conservation Trust.



We are pleased to have Kristin Watson join our Board of Directors.



Charles Coffman, restoration specialist for the Historic Santa Fe Foundation.

Our June Garden Party Was Enchanting



The portal overlooking the garden at El Zaguán is one of the most popular spots on Canyon Road.



Terry Leary enjoys a quite moment in the garden.

Muchas Gracias Donors

Collected Works

The Cowgirl Hall of Fame

Jackalope

The Lensic Performing Arts Center

La Fonda on the Plaza

Geronimo Restaurant

Linda Hunsaker, printmaker

Teresa Neptune, photographer

Paynes Nurseries

The Pink Adobe Restaurant

Pranzo Italian Grill

The Shed Restaurant

School for Advanced Research Press

Ten Thousand Waves Japanese Health Spa

Tropic of Capricorn



Workshop participants listen to Mac Watson. Photo © HSFF.

Rain Mostly a Blessing

For those of us who are gardeners, this has been glorious year. We planted several new trees and shrubs on our properties and have enjoyed the ideal intervals of rain.

With many thousands of square feet of roof to worry about among our properties, the rain also poses problems. We were hoping to replace El Zaguán's roof in sections but it became apparent that its fragile condition would undo all of our work beneath it. So once again we have to set aside some of our more exciting work (such as the zaguán restoration) to tackle the unglamorous but necessary. Since mid August a full-scale re-roofing effort, equal to half of the year's maintenance budget, is being performed at El Zaguán.

All of us here at the Foundation can't wait to get back to the fun stuff but our old roof couldn't wait.

Workshop A Success

In early August we planned to present a mud plaster and lime-wash workshop for 15 people. We received 60 calls. We scheduled an additional day and were sorry to leave another 30 people out.

Our thanks to Mac Watson and Ian Daitz for leading these classes. They received many compliments for their generosity and sharing. Mac is a local contractor (and former HSFF Board member) who specializes in architectural conservation. Ian is our 2007 Faith and John Meem Preservation Intern. He is currently enrolled in UNM's Master program in Historic Preservation with a special focus in Landscape Architecture. Thanks also to Hope Curtis who photo-documented the workshop as well as all the conservation work taking place at our properties this summer.

Properties Protected by the Historic Santa Fe Foundation

Foundation-Owned Properties

- The James L. Johnson House
545 Canyon Road (El Zaguán)
- The "Tudesqui" House
131-135 East de Vargas Street
- The Oliver P. Hovey House
136 Grant Avenue
- The Felipe B. Delgado House
124 West Palace Avenue
- The Cross of the Martyrs
Paseo de la Loma
- The Donaciano Vigil House
518 Alto Street
- The Garcia House
524 Alto Street
- The Rivera House
524 ½ Alto Street

Historic Preservation Easements Held by HSFF

- The Juan Jose Prada House
519 Canyon Road
- The Original Trading Post
201 West San Francisco
- The Irene von Horvath House
728 Canyon Road
- The Sara Melton House
601½ Paseo de Peralta
- The Shuster Mian House
580 Camino del Monte Sol
- The Wm. Penhallow Henderson House
555 Camino del Monte Sol

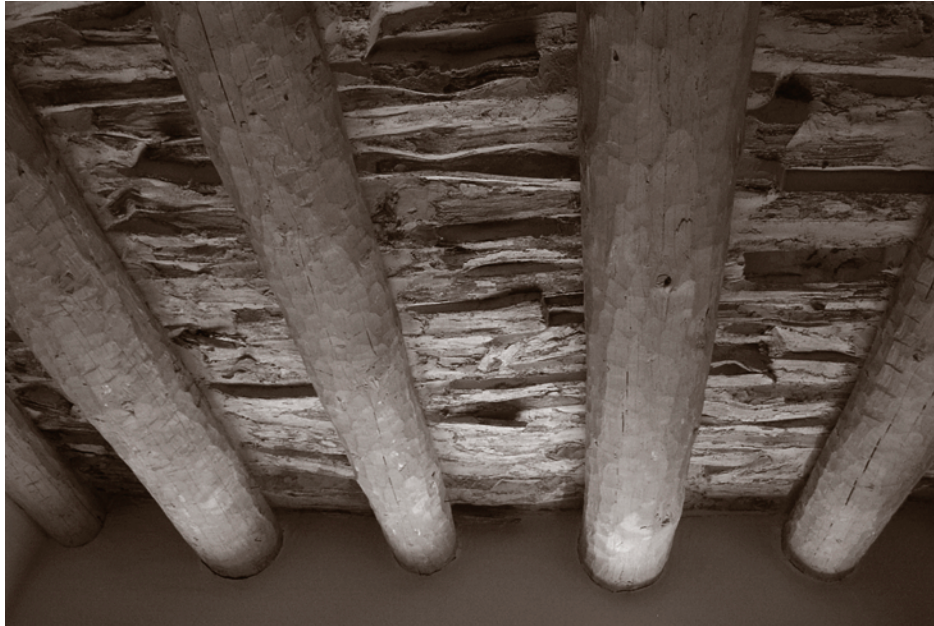
Learn how you can provide permanent protection to your historic property. Ask us about our historic preservation easement program.



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This is the living room ceiling at Boyle House on De Vargas which is on our Registry of properties worthy of preservation. It is a nice example of early exposed roof decking of split cedar. Many early ceilings are covered or covered over when dirt begins to sift through to the space below. Here a tinted gypsum was used to seal the gaps. Photo © 2007 HSFF.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Make sure that our past
is here in the future.
Make your annual
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Historic Santa Fe
Foundation today.

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Please return
this form in
the enclosed
envelope.



Consider an investment in the future of our historic past by contributing
to the Historic Santa Fe Foundation Endowment Fund.

Our Endowment Fund is managed by the Santa Fe Community Foundation (505) 988-9715.