

HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION  
Summer 2022 Newsletter



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## A LETTER FROM HSFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Summer is upon us and so is our annual Garden Party where we review the past year, and talk about the future of our organization and public outreach. This June, the past and present come together as a major project comes to fruition and another significant plan is launched, visibly in the garden.

The fifth edition of *Old Santa Fe Today* is being previewed at our Garden Party, Thursday, June 23, following our presentation and traditional lecture in the garden. The focus of the lecture will be on the history, economic and cultural, of the acequia system in Santa Fe. The first visible steps in the implementation of our El Zaguán Master Plan were the new logo/information sign installed at the street, and the new brick entryway from the street into the courtyard and zaguán. The next major step was the rebuilding of a section of the Canyon Road Community Ditch (acequia) that runs in our garden. This ditch irrigated farmland below (north of) Canyon Road from 1890 until sometime around 1940. El Zaguán was expanded in this agrarian geography, eventually utilizing the acequia also for its garden.

The acequia systems of Santa Fe were important to the development of the city by providing the water to grow crops for the sustenance of Spanish settlers arrived on the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro from New Spain. The associations that controlled the maintenance and water use (and still do throughout Northern New Mexico) were one of the earliest forms of government in the Kingdom of New Mexico. BC Rimbeaux is the mayordomo of the Acequia de la Muralla, a ditch still in use on the north side of the Santa Fe River. He will be the speaker at our annual gathering and show off the interpretive ditch in the garden. Phil Bové, long time and well known mayordomo of the Acequia Madre, will also be in attendance to assist with questions and information.

Both of these acequias, the two oldest in Santa Fe, are on our Register of Properties Worthy of Preservation. The 96 properties on the Register are the focus of the redo of *Old Santa Fe Today*, in its elegant new version, long awaited by historians and the public.

Our book is a beauty. Well-researched, written, and photographed – as you see here in the newsletter. We have included an excerpt from the book (on the Fényes-Curtin House), photos, and a story about the making. Our intent was to hold a book launch and signing in conjunction with this annual Garden gathering. The final proofs have been approved and the book is being printed as I write this. However, the uncertainty of the supply chain and shipping make it impossible at this time to predict an actual date for having the books in hand. We have scheduled a launch, and a concurrent exhibition and sale of some of the photographs from the book in November 2022 to coincide with the start of the holiday season.

We hope you come visit us at our Garden meeting on Thursday, June 23, 2022, 5pm. Then we trust you will follow our progress as we implement further steps of the El Zaguán Master Plan, and continue to roll-out programs, projects, exhibitions, lectures, and special events during the coming months. And we all hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,



Pete Warzel

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Projects Manager - Mara Saxer, Deputy Director - Melanie McWhorter, Education and  
Communications Coordinator - Hanna Churchwell

Image left: Juan José Prada House, photograph by Simone Frances



Our mission is to preserve, protect and promote the historic properties and diverse cultural heritage of the Santa Fe area, and to educate the public about Santa Fe's history and the importance of preservation.



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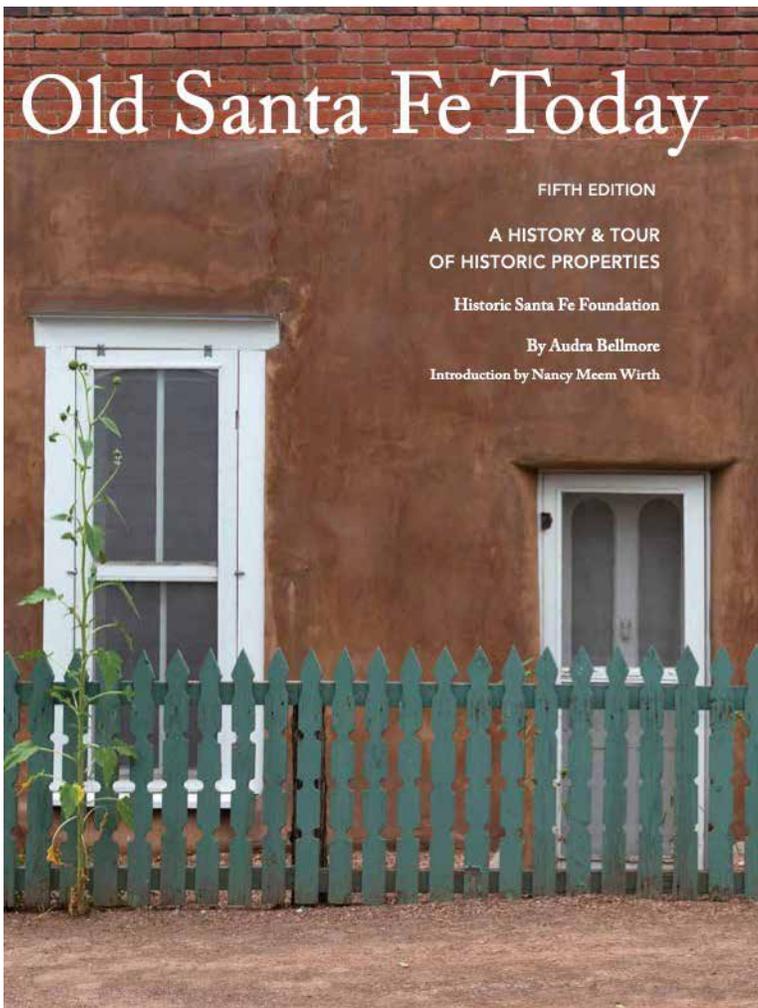
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# Years in the Making: The Fifth Edition Arrives in 2022

by Melanie McWhorter

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Top: *Old Santa Fe Today*, 5th Edition cover, Museum of New Mexico Press; Bottom: Borrego House (Geronimo Restaurant), photograph by Simone Frances.

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation (HSFF) board and staff have had a desire to revise and expand *Old Santa Fe Today* (OSFT) to include additional properties added to its Register of Properties Worthy of Preservation since the last edition released in 1991. We had a serendipitous encounter with University of New Mexico professor and writer Dr. Audra Bellmore in late 2018 who sparked a realistic discussion about embarking on this momentous task. The publication was originally published in 1966, second in 1972, third in 1982, and fourth in 1991. The newest version, the fifth edition, will bear the publication date of 2022, and is now scheduled to arrive in mid- to late summer. The new edition includes a preface by HSFF's Executive Director; an introduction composed by Nancy Meem Wirth; two essays – *Historic Santa Fe Foundation's Preservation Easements* provided by Mara Saxer and *A History of the Santa Fe's Built Environment* by Paul Weideman; and numerous pieces Bellmore, Associate Professor at University of New Mexico, including *A Brief Chronology of Important Preservation Efforts In and Around Santa Fe*, and *Primary New Mexican Architectural Styles*. Bellmore also produced 96 completely re-researched and rewritten citations on

Santa Fe and Northern New Mexican properties, those first and continually listed properties on HSFF's Register of Properties Worthy of Preservation (Register).





*THE SUBJECT OF THE BOOK – THE REGISTER OF PROPERTIES WORTHY OF PRESERVATION*

In a piece published in HSFF’s newsletter in 2020, Pete Warzel questions, “What is this Register of Properties Worthy of Preservation?” He follows, “It is not the state or national Register, although requirements for consideration are very similar to each of those official lists of important properties. It is the first project started by the Historic Santa Fe Foundation upon founding in 1961. From the board minutes of the first meeting of the board of directors, September 12, 1961: “The Board received a report from John Gaw Meem as to the desirability of undertaking the design and production of plaques to be placed on landmarks determined by the Foundation.” In a letter following the meeting Alan Vedder, Chairman of the Foundation, to John Meem, who was on the board of the Old Santa Fe Association at the time, advising him of the project: “It was agreed that perhaps the first and best project of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation to undertake would be the designing and erection of plaques on buildings and at sights [sic] important to Santa Fe.”

HSFF’s Register of the Properties Worthy of Preservation (Register), is a unique, vetted, and specific list created over many years that reaches into the broader history of New Mexico, the United States, Mexico, Spain, and Native American cultures. This book focuses on women pioneers who rejected restrictive social norms prevalent in the Eastern United States, business owners in the railroad and

tourist industries, artists who found inspiration in the glorious landscape, immigrants from many nations, among the many others representing the varied cultures and characters who have enriched the story of New Mexico.

Many of the properties around Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico that HSFF has recognized throughout the years are honored with the shield-shaped plaques that bear the name given to the house in the nomination, often showing the full name of one or more prominent individual or family surname. In years past, a home could simply be nominated and discussed at a board meeting to establish its importance. Nowadays, the process is guided by HSFF’s standards and process established in the property nomination form. The resulting document is filled with the history, a detailed description of the architecture of the structure replete with photos, elevations, floor plans, etc. to provided first-hand, primary documentation of the historical integrity of the structure. Currently we have 97 properties on the Register – 96 were listed at the penning of the citations for the 5th edition of *Old Santa Fe Today* – with four more in the works in the upcoming months. We provide the full nomination form on our site [historicsantafe.org/register](http://historicsantafe.org/register).

*ABOUT THE BOOK AND OUR PARTNERSHIPS*

The process of producing a book of this depth required many partners. This new edition was on the to-do list of



Photo credit left to right, Simone Frances; Gustave Baumann House, Olive Rush House, St. John's College, Sheldon Parsons House



HSFF board and staff for many years since the fourth edition was published in 1991. We could not have conceived of and longed for a new edition without the work of the many writers of the previous editions including Sylvia Loomis who started the publishing legacy with the first edition. As noted in previous updates on the book, HSFF was quite fortunate to find the writer Audra Bellmore, PhD., who graciously volunteered her time to research and write the new citations and the additional essays. With a writer in place, we submitted the proposal to the Museum of New Mexico Press (MNMP) in 2019, which opened discussions on the project. The photographer Simone Frances photographed many of the properties with efficiency and produced lovely images of the interiors and exteriors in natural light, an aesthetic that honors the buildings. MNMP Director Anna Gallegos and her staff approved the project and then project manager Lisa Pacheco dedicated hours for communication, editing, and publication oversight. The designer David Skolkin and his typesetter and layout assistant Ann Lowe worked to transform the wealth of images and copy on each neighborhood into a publication that had a very formulaic structure of buildings with accompanying image(s) to produce a highly readable, useful book loaded with lots of aesthetic appeal.

The new book is divided into eight chapters on the neighborhoods with a description and map for each. The maps were designed by Deborah Reade who has a meticulous attention to detail – each place name and dot perfectly

in its appropriate location. Reade made attempts to visit all the locations and encouraged our staff and in-house OSFT project manager Melanie McWhorter to do so to ensure this accuracy. Former HSFF Board Chair Ken Stilwell and McWhorter even took one tour of the Don Gaspar/Old Santa Fe Trail neighborhood. We noted the best placement for the dots on the map, the locations that were not viewable, blocked by walls, for example, and any private residences. It was a joy to visit all the locations with the working maps and Bellmore's writings on each spot. The book, 8.5"x10", is also designed to be taken along on a walking or driving tour. It provides for a lovely tour pulling aside on a leisurely drive or on a sunny afternoon stroll to read about the former residents and important historical events associated with each location.

The publication will be 288-pages with 173 color, 82 black-and-white photographs, 8 color maps illustrating each neighborhood. The book is designed to be a touring piece, a gift object, and a research publication for the history and architecture of Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico. To create such an object that fits into all these categories and that is approachable to the layperson is quite complex; yet, the audience for this book is broad, and it is meant to be enjoyed and utilized by a variety of readers. The citations are well-researched by Dr. Audra Bellmore and were reviewed by two volunteers for HSFF, Dr. Mac Watson and Dr. Nancy Owen Lewis. It introduces the foundation, and its mission relating to the preservation of the architecture of Santa Fe. The importance



of the structures, architecturally, their place within a historical context, and the residents/owners and their respective importance to the development of the community. HSFF uses the structures to create a narrative of the history of Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico.

We are grateful for the homeowners for opening their properties to the photographer, and we include both the contemporary photographs along with historic photographs and illustrations for most properties. We reached out to the owners and almost all graciously replied and allowed Simone Frances to document many of the historical features of the buildings.

### *BUDGET AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING*

The budget for *Old Santa Fe Today* was approximately \$35,000. We raised the entire budget for the book and maps through many donations and grants. HSFF could not have proceeded with the publication without its donor-specific funding. We received enough donations to assist in the subvention of the book with the publisher, and to contract the photographer and the mapmaker. We are grateful for our contributors, donors, and grantors, for without them, we would not have been able to actualize this new edition of *OSFT*.



### *FUNDRAISING FOR THE APP*

We are working to produce an additional free-standing map with Deborah Reade based on her maps that are bound in the book. It will be a supplement to the book available for purchase in HSFF's gift shop and online in late 2022. The final element will be the app which will be available for Apple and Android phones. We are currently in development of the app with Digital Ant Media. We received the bid from the designers and hope to launch a beta version for testing in June 2022. The final app in its initial stage should be ready by the end of 2022.

While the book and maps are funded, we are looking for additional funds for the app including grants especially relating to accessibility features, and an expanded feature dedicated to the history of HSFF's home El Zaguán. To help fund the app, visit [historicsantafe.org/osft](http://historicsantafe.org/osft).

### *DUE DATE AND EVENTS*

Some delays may be expected for COVID resurgence, supply chain-issues, and shipping delays and the books are now scheduled to arrive in August 2022. HSFF plans to host an exhibition of the photographs by Simone Frances as well as a book signing with Dr. Audra Bellmore and other essayists in November 2022.

Please visit HSFF to sign up for our email notifications and find out about our events ([historicsantafe.org/events](http://historicsantafe.org/events)).

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Liz Cale, Santa Fe Properties  
Longview Asset Management  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
New Mexico Bank & Trust (Heartland Financial)  
New Mexico Humanities Council  
Old Santa Fe Association  
San Miguel Chapel (St. Michael's High School)  
Scottish Rite Temple Historic Preservation Foundation  
Sunwest Construction  
Thaw Charitable Foundation  
Victory Contemporary/Poteet Victory  
Wolf Corporation/John and Marybeth Wolf

To donate to the app, contact HSFF Deputy Director Melanie McWhorter at 505.983.2567 or [melanie@historicsantafe.org](mailto:melanie@historicsantafe.org).



## REGISTER NOMINATION INFORMATION

HSFF's Education, Research, and Archives Committee recently embarked on a new revision of the Register nomination application for integrity and clarity. HSFF welcomes inquiries about historic homes, but the full application should be consulted before considering a nomination. The form can be found on the Register page of our website ([historicsantafe.org/register](http://historicsantafe.org/register)) or by contacting HSFF

at 505-983-2567 or [info@historicsantafe.org](mailto:info@historicsantafe.org). Briefly, here are a few details of the nomination application.

The HSFF Register honors properties that possess exceptional historic value. For example, HSFF recognizes houses, buildings as well as barrios, compounds, acequias, and campuses - districts, sites, structures, art, landmarks, or objects having historic, archaeological, scientific, architectural, or other cultural significance.

### Criteria for Registering Historic Property

All property chosen for HSFF recognition must possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meet at least two of the following criteria:

- Embody the distinguishing characteristics of a type of architecture identified with the history of the Santa Fe area, or
- Be the site of significant events in that history, or
- Be associated with the lives of persons prominent in that history, or
- Be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the Santa Fe area; or
- Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or
- Represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- Have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in the history or prehistory of the Santa Fe area.

### USEFUL LINKS

Order *Old Santa Fe Today*  
[Historicsantafe.org/osft](http://Historicsantafe.org/osft)

Donate for touring app  
[Historicsantafe.org/osft](http://Historicsantafe.org/osft)

Register nomination form  
[Historicsantafe.org/register](http://Historicsantafe.org/register)

Events & email sign-up  
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Built in 1926 in the Territorial Style, the Fényes-Curtin House was home to three generations of powerful women. Photograph by Simone Frances, 2020.

5

**Fényes-Curtin House**  
**614 Acequia Madre**

Pasadena heiress, artist, and world traveler Eva Scott Fényes (1849–1930) came to Santa Fe in 1889, first living in a house on Hillside Avenue and later on Canyon Road. She painted and drew images of New Mexican buildings, landscapes, and artifacts. She was an early advocate of Native American and Hispanic art and culture.

In 1926, Fényes designed a home for herself, her daughter Leonora Scott Curtin, and her granddaughter Leonora Frances Curtin Paloheimo. The Territorial Style home still sits on its original three acres along the Acequia Madre and remarkably

retains the integrity of site, style, and material possessions of the three generations of women who owned the property. Eva Fényes was an astute real estate developer and investor. Leonora Scott Curtin was an ethno-botanist, researching and writing books on how plants and herbs were used by indigenous cultures in the Southwest. Leonora Frances Curtin Paloheimo was a linguist who studied Native American languages and culture. Together the Leonoras, as they were often called, were founding members of the Spanish Colonial Arts Society. Together they bought and preserved the historic ranch in La Cienega now called El Rancho de Las Golondrinas, which operates as a living history museum. In the 1930s, Paloheimo created Native



Drawing of Acequia Madre House. Fényes-Curtin-Paloheimo Collection, Acequia Madre House, Santa Fe.



Living room in the Fényes-Curtin House, ca. 1920s. Photograph by Eva Scott Fényes. Acequia Madre House Archives, neg. no. 1406.01.134. Fényes-Curtin-Paloheimo Collection, Acequia Madre House, Santa Fe.

Market, a retail establishment in Santa Fe, which commissioned and sold Hispanic arts and crafts, household goods, and furnishings, providing income to local people during the Great Depression. Many of the handmade items sold in the store still decorate the rooms of the Fényes-Curtin House.

The home was a gathering place for the artistic and cultural community in Santa Fe, including photographer Ansel Adams, artist Gustave Baumann, architect John Gaw Meem, and scholar/publisher J. B. Jackson, who later bought property in La Cienega from Paloheimo for his own home.

The reach of the Fényes-Curtin-Paloheimo women was legendary, extensive, and international. The women witnessed the opening of the Suez Canal and the funeral procession of Archduke Ferdinand, whose murder precipitated the First World War. Their familial Pasadena home housed the Finnish Consulate for seventeen years, while Leonora Paloheimo's husband Y. A. Paloheimo was Consul to Finland. The family donated that house to the City of Pasadena, and it is now the Pasadena Historical Society. Presently, the Fényes-Curtin

House in Santa Fe is owned by the Paloheimo Family Foundation and serves as the headquarters of the Women's International Study Center, a nonprofit organization supporting scholarship related to the interests and objectives of the three generations of independent women who lived there. The house is listed as a contributing structure to the Camino del Monte Sol Historic District. The HSFF placed the Fényes-Curtin House on its Register in 1994.

#### SOURCES

Barbara Felix Architecture and Design. *Fényes-Curtin House*. Santa Fe: Historic Structures Report, 2018.

Baxter, John O. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form: Acequia System of El Rancho de las Golondrinas, Santa Fe County, New Mexico*. National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1980.

Nestor, Sarah. *The Native Market of the Spanish New Mexican Craftsman, 1933–1940*, rev. ed. Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 2009.

Sze, Corrine P. *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Camino del Monte Sol Historic District, Santa Fe County, New Mexico*. National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1988.



# 2022 HSFF UPDATES



## Tudescui West

In mid-2021, we were notified by the owners of 129 E. DeVargas, Tudescui West, that a portion of their property was

for sale. HSFF held a right of first refusal on the entire property, granted in 1996 by the Betty R. Caldwell Revocable Trust. Given the right of first refusal, HSFF Board and staff expected this to be an easy, quick, and efficient transaction. Unexpectedly, we needed to litigate to settle the right and the court found that the Property is of significant historical value; The mission of the Plaintiff Historic Santa Fe Foundation is the preservation of historic culture here in Santa Fe; In pursuit of that mission, Plaintiff obtained a valid right of first refusal on the Property (“Right of First Refusal”).

The result was an order to sell the property to the Historic Santa Fe Foundation, which was accomplished on December 11, 2021.

On December 29, 2021, HSFF sold the property to Galisteo Street, Inc, the original buyer of Tudescui East in 2019, ensuring that both sides – Roque Tudescui East and West – of the historic structure were kept intact with one owner. Galisteo Street, Inc. is the owner of the Inn of the Five Graces. The preservation easement and subsequent recording of the deed were filed in 2022 after the closures for the end-of-year holidays.

Historic Santa Fe Foundation is proud to have been persistent with the purchase of this historic property so that we may protect it with a preservation easement and turn it around to a business that cares about the integrity of the historic fabric of Santa Fe, as well as adds significant tax revenue and employment opportunities to the City.

## El Zaguán Master Plan Underway



It is an exciting time at Historic Santa Fe Foundation, as years of planning and dreaming begin to manifest themselves physically.

In January of 2022, a long-anticipated improvement to our front entry was begun. For the stretch at our turquoise gates, where the courtyard wall is plastered with the traditional mud over its adobe structure, the

earthen sidewalk was replaced with dark colored bricks. This replaced uneven flagstone and corrected drainage issues. The contractor, Sunsil Landscaping, did a great job not only making it more inviting and safer but also fitting the changes in with the historic surroundings.



Also, the revival of the historic acequia, the Canyon Road Community Ditch, was underway as of this publication and set to be completed. This is an educational piece of the El Zaguán Master Plan to recreate the community ditch with a headgate to demonstrate to visitors the function of an acequia. The display is designed by Surroundings Studios and is being constructed by Oasis Aquatics, and stone masons are reusing every possible piece of stone lining the historic path.

Staff and docents will demonstrate how the system works to flood irrigate fields and gardens. In conjunction with the impending interpretive space inside, this will greatly add to the Foundation’s resources to enact its educational mission.

More info on [historicsantafe.org/ezmp](https://historicsantafe.org/ezmp)

## Calendar of Events

Select upcoming HSFF events

- June 23, 5pm** - Annual Garden Party and Members Meeting (open to the public in 2022). BC Rimbeaux, mayordomo of Acequia de la Muralla will speak about acequias and we will demonstrate the new acequia renovation in El Zaguán Garden
- November 11, 4pm** - *Old Santa Fe Today* Book Signing with Dr. Audra Bellmore. Exhibition dates November 4-28.

## HSFF Stewards

Dorothy McKibbin House in June and Garcia Street Betty Stewart House in July. Join or more information at [historicsantafe.org/stewards](https://historicsantafe.org/stewards) or email [melanie@historicsantafe.org](mailto:melanie@historicsantafe.org).

## Exhibitions

- June - Aaron Payne Fine Art curated exhibition *How I See It: African American Art (1960-1980)*
- July - HSFF Resident Artist Julia Dickenson, Broom Room
- August - Santa Fe Book Arts, Large pop-up book on Santa Fe’s historic buildings
- September - Judith Lanius Exhibition and book launch for *Mortal Highway*
- October - Scott Parker, Linoleum block prints
- November - *Old Santa Fe Today* photographs
- December - Mary Olsen and Wendy Fay

## Scheduled Salons

- June 16, 3pm - Aaron Payne curator talk
- July 14, 3pm - Scott Ernst on Architectural LiDAR and photogrammetry
- August 10, 3pm - Bruce Bernstein on Native American Arts and Indian Market
- September, - Judith Lanius artist talk on *Mortal Highway*, TBD; Roderick Frochette on History of Money, TBD

HSFF events [historicsantafe.org/events](https://historicsantafe.org/events).

Photo credit, clockwise from top: Simone Frances, Tudescui West, Mara Saxer, brick repair and acequia demo.

## New Board Members and In Memory

HSFF is pleased to welcome new members to its team.

**Greg Walke** is a Santa Fe architect and a former board chairman and current member of the property committee of The Historic Santa Fe Foundation. He has led tours for hundreds of Santa Fe visitors, including walking tours of downtown for the Museum of New Mexico, Canyon Road for the National Trust, children's tours for the Foundation, and various historic home tours.

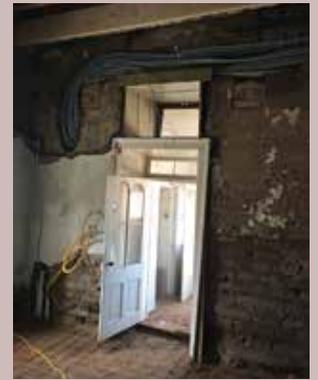


## Hovey House Honored with HSFF Stewardship Award

Each year in May, the City of Santa Fe, Old Santa Fe Association, and Historic Santa Fe Foundation hosts the annual Heritage Preservation Awards. For 2022, HSFF presented the Architectural Stewardship Award to Grant Avenue Partners, the new owners of the Oliver P. Hovey House located at 136 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe. In the wording for the award, HSFF's Executive Director Pete Warzel notes:

*In recognition of the great care and effort, planning and design, research and execution, of the renovation and remodel of the historic Oliver P. Hovey House. The meticulous efforts in maintaining the integrity of this significant building in Santa Fe, while repurposing as modern office space, are a testament to the importance of preservation to the continuity of history, hand in hand with business opportunity and growth.*

Congratulations to Grant Avenue Partners and LongView Asset Management for all the efforts in preservation to be awarded the Architectural Stewardship at this year's award ceremony.



**Nicholas Wirth** is a new Board Director and member of the Education, Research, and Archives Committee. He is retired educator who spent the last two and a half decades teaching in the Santa Fe Public Schools, Desert Academy and Santa Fe Prep. He holds degrees from Colorado

College, the College of Santa Fe, and is currently working on a degree through the Gilder Lehrman Institute. Nicholas lives in a Meem house, is passionate about New Mexico history and historic preservation. He has three wonderful children.

We cannot address Board changes without acknowledging all the dedicated work of **Nancy Owen Lewis**. Nancy passed away in March 2022. With her passing, we have lost a wonderful friend, a committed scholar, a valuable leader at HSFF, and a great lady.



## New Staff and Staff Changes

HSFF is pleased to welcome aboard our new Education and Communications Coordinator, **Hanna Churchwell**.

Hanna Churchwell has a bachelor's degree in Studio Art and subsequently served as an AmeriCorps member at a public charter school, teaching kindergarteners and organizing afterschool programs. She completed a Master of Business Administration to round out her arts education and become a better asset to nonprofits.

Two of our staff are shifting their roles a bit and taking on different or additional responsibilities. We are pleased to have named **Mara Saxer** as Preservation Projects Manager and **Melanie McWhorter** as Deputy Director. Historic Santa Fe Foundation is expanding its mission even further into the areas of preservation, history, and architecture in Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico and related education. Hanna will play a very important role in the growth of our educational programming.



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