

HISTORIC SANTA FE

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INSIDE HISTORIC SANTA FE

For February we interview Debbie Lawrence, Professor Emeritus, California State University at Fullerton, and dedicated volunteer at HSFF. She has taken on a significant project that looks directly into the history of our Foundation—an audit of the Register of Properties Worthy of Preservation. Our plaque program, if you will. We also look at the work of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in naming the Palace of the Governors a National Treasure, and what that means for the future of the great place on the plaza.

WELCOME

Spring fever. Maybe a false start, but the weather this past week or so has been a joy and getting us all working towards the events of spring at the Foundation—Mother's Day and the Preservation Awards. In the meantime we are taking care of old business with Debbie Lawrence's audit of the HSFF Register. Name changes, files, plaques and some 54 years of adding and subtracting make a need for spring cleaning. Our website has a list of Register Properties, some with links to fascinating reports and information. But we want to ensure that the list is accurate, and so Debbie has jumped into an audit of our own historical record. What she is finding is fascinating. Another piece of very old business is the Palace of the Governors, the anchor of historic Santa Fe. Naming the Palace a National Treasure has put it in the spotlight and sparked a movement for funds from the state legislature to bring it up to a sound condition. —**Pete Warzel, HSFF Executive Director**

TWO ART HIGHLIGHTS:

- The deadline for the Call for Entries for watercolor or gouache of Historic Structures of Santa Fe is nearing at March 1, 2015. Please visit <http://www.historicsantafe.org/exhibit-guidelines.html> for detailed information.
- A new exhibition at the El Zaguán Gallery, beginning Friday, February 27, is a look at what we HSFF staff do in our off hours. There is a life beyond HSFF but the oil paintings by Charles Coffman, HSFF Preservation Specialist, and the photographs of Pete Warzel, HSFF Executive Director, are tied to the land and history of New Mexico. We just can't get away from it.

A NATIONAL TREASURE IN OUR MIDST

On January 28, 2015 an event was held at the New Mexico Museum of History and the Palace of the Governors by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Museum of New Mexico Foundation, Los Compadres del Palacio, New Mexico State Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. Speakers, costumes, on-camera reminiscences, and the announcement by the National Trust that the Palace of the Governors was named a National Treasure completed the agenda. After some 400 years it is about time. Dedie Snow, HSFF Board member, calls it a “living artifact” and it is said to be the oldest continuously occupied public building in the United States with a history of national flags flying above its walls over the years, including the Confederate States.

But that designation is not simply a statement of historic value as the National Treasure program is one of protection for deteriorating buildings that are integral to the national history. Emphasis is placed on the Treasures to help raise funds for necessary repairs and maintenance or in some cases to prevent demolition. That is not the fear at the Palace, but repair, or lack thereof, most definitely is. The announcement event was timed to generate support for \$1.5 million of appropriations in the New Mexico legislative session for repair of the Palace.

More information of the National Treasure status can be found on the National Trust for Historic Preservation website here: <http://www.savingplaces.org/treasures/palace-governors#.VNp9L0tg3wI>





INTERVIEW DEBBIE LAWRENCE

Interviewed by Pete Warzel

Q: You have been working on an “audit” of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation Register of Properties worthy of Preservation. There are some 90+ properties on the Register in the Santa Fe area, but that is really the question isn’t it? What is the purpose of your work on the audit?

DL: It is my understanding that due to changes over time the Foundation does not have an accurate list of the properties deemed worthy of preservation; whether in the names that properties are known by or even simply the record keeping changes at the Foundation. I am reading through the past Minutes of the Board meetings and compiling an “official” list of properties as they were approved by the Board of HSFF in each year to the present.

Q: How are you going about determining the “official” list of properties on the Register?

DL: Beginning with the Minutes for September 1961 I am making notes on anything that has to do with historic properties. In addition to compiling an overall summary of the Minutes, I am compiling a list of properties that have been researched by the

Research Committee and deemed worthy of preservation. My list to date has 62 properties through 1992, although two of the properties on the list have had their plaques removed. I am up to 1993 and thus far there is no mention of a “Register” or “Registry.” They refer rather to a “list” of properties deemed worthy of plaquing and then actually marked or plaqued. It isn’t until 1992 that it was suggested that a list be maintained of all those buildings and sites which the Foundation has designated as worthy of preservation, with an asterisk or other symbol noting whether or not a plaque had been installed.

Q: Is there a history behind the plaque itself?

DL: In 1965, when it was determined to plaque the Randall Davey House, there was a discussion of increasing the size and shape of the plaque on future historic properties. Instead of a small bronze shield, some Board members wanted a large rectangular plaque that would have the space to provide a fuller history of the building. There is an example of this in the large plaque at the original Cross of the Martyrs at the top of the hill on Paseo de la Loma. The Foundation also cooperated with the Woodmen of the World to erect a large rectangular plaque at the site of Santa Fe’s first chapel at the southeast end of the

Palace of the Governors. But the bronze shield has remained the standard to this day.

Q: How have the criteria for the Register changed over time?

DL: The method of selecting buildings for identification was initially a system whereby points were accorded to each architectural or historical element. A final “non-emotional compilation” determined what properties should be plaqued. In 1963, Board members approved Robert Utley’s proposed criteria for the selection of historic buildings and sites as “worthy of preservation,” which he had adapted from those of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. In 1973, Jim Adler reviewed the plaquing of buildings for the benefit of the new Board members. At this time, the research on the buildings was being done by the members of the Historic Research Committee. Using deeds, titles, and old archives, they determined historical significance. In addition, John Gaw Meem and Phil Register usually passed on the architectural value of the buildings recommended to the Foundation for plaquing. The issue of when to deplaque a property is an ongoing topic in the years of Board Meetings. For example, Kate Cullum wrote to the Board in 1970 to ask what responsibilities “devolve on all parties by placing a plaque on a building.”

According to Cullum, the plaque should be removed from the building if the building is not preserved in its original state.

John Gaw Meem responded that Cullum's suggestions "just weren't practical." All the Board members agreed that unplaquing a property was "a very touchy subject."

Q: Our mission is to preserve, protect, and promote not only buildings, but cultural heritage. Are you finding discussion or action on things other than buildings?

DL: You might consider that by 1993, the Foundation has plaqued the Fairview Cemetery, an acequia, and the Old Cross of the Martyrs. And the work that the Foundation has done with buildings simply cannot be separated from cultural heritage. Take for example the 1974 renovation of the Loretto Chapel—the Foundation's first opportunity to participate in the renovation of a historic building. For a number of years the Foundation actually administered the chapel through a contractual agreement with the owner. Consequently, the Foundation was very involved with the interpretation of the chapel—this interpretation included not only the building itself, but Jean-Baptiste Lamy, Catholicism in New Mexico Territory, and the Sisters of Loretto as well. HSFF was involved with returning the

Archbishop's harmonium to the Chapel from the Museum of New Mexico, and arranged for restoration of the instrument to working order, transporting it to the Chapel, and providing adequate security and continued maintenance.

There is ongoing discussion in the Minutes about creating a library at the Foundation, strengthening the educational programs for the public, and maintaining and preserving the archives—these include paper files, photographs, sound recordings, and moving images. These activities are all directly related to the Foundation's desire to be an effective steward of our cultural heritage.

Q: One of the things I know you are tracking in addition to the Register properties is a running list of Board Members of the Foundation through the minutes. Has this been a diverse group over the years?

DL: In looking for members, the Board seems to try to find a balance between getting people with specific skills—architects, historians, archaeologists, lawyers, city planners—and looking for people who are interested and willing to serve and use the skill they have, even if that means that the focus and work of the organization changes as the Board changes.

Q: I know you have visited most of the Register properties and taken photographs. What can you say is your favorite property on the list?

DL: I am fickle. My favorite property is the one I am working on at the moment. Right now it would have to be two properties that are not as yet on the Founda-

tion's list: the Old Santa Fe Trail Building and the John Gaw Meem Architects office, a tangible symbol of Meem's instrumental role in the development of the Spanish Pueblo Revival style.

For more updates on our plaques and registration process please contact the HSSF.



OUR MISSION

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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HSFF STAFF

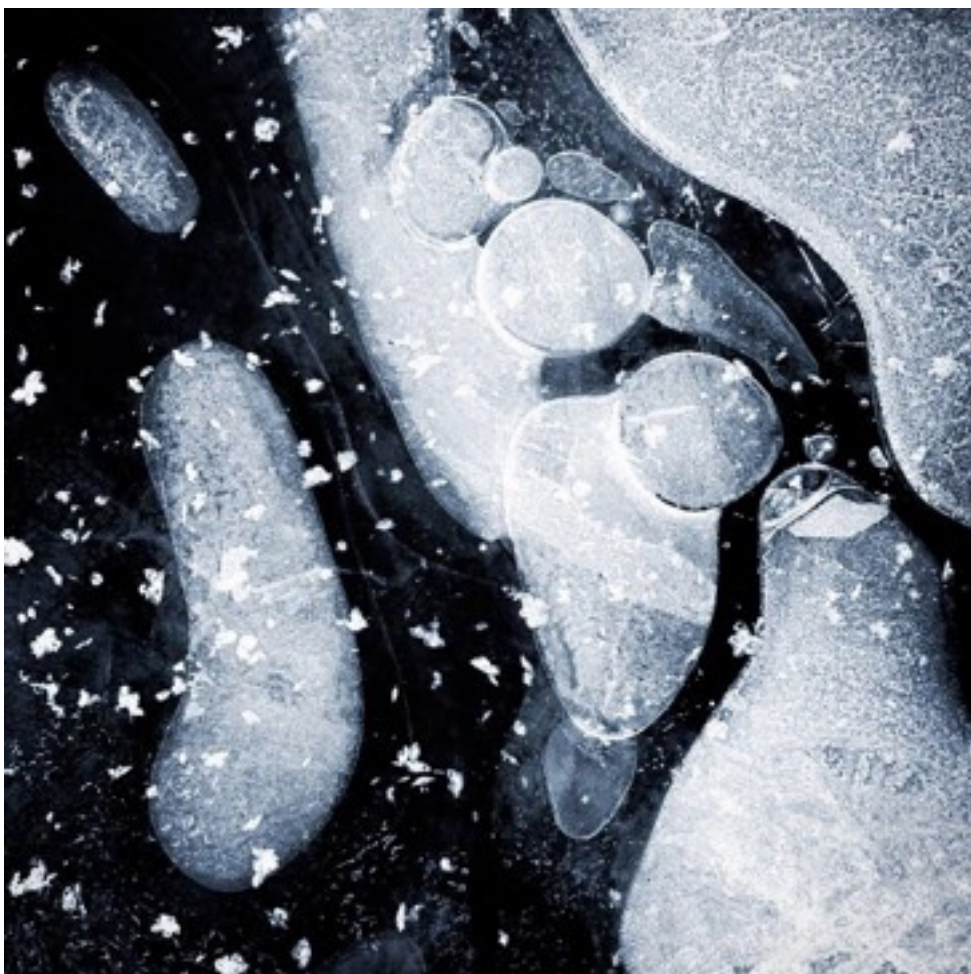
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Administrative Assistant
Jacqueline Hill

Restoration Specialists
Charles Coffman
Bobby Wilson

Property Assistant
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FEB/MARCH 2015 **EVENTS CALENDAR**

Through Feb. 25: El Zaguán Gallery.

Thalassa—new and blue work by El Zaguán resident artist Carolyn Riman continues. Open during regular office hours.

Feb. 27: El Zaguán Gallery.

Opening and reception 5:00-7:00PM.

"Off Hours:" Oil Paintings by Charles Coffman, HSFF Preservation Specialist and photographs by Pete Warzel, HSFF Executive Director. Through March 18.

March 1: The deadline for the Call for Entries for watercolor or gouache of Historic Structures of Santa Fe is nearing at March 1, 2015. Please visit <http://www.historicsantafe.org/exhibit-guidelines.html> for detailed information.

March 20: El Zaguán Gallery.

"Color Us Caring: A Coloring Book for Community-minded, Make-it-happen Humans"—Illustrations and inspiration by El Zaguán resident artist Dominic Cappello.

Please send us information about Foundation-related events in Santa Fe: info@historicsantafe.org.

