

HISTORIC SANTA FE

MONTHLY E-MAGAZINE OF THE HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION JULY-AUG.2015



INSIDE HISTORIC SANTA FE

Given all the activity in Santa Fe and at the Foundation this summer we are doing what all good publishers do and combining two months of this eZine to buy some time for other programs. This July/August edition looks at the WALLS – two major undertakings by the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. The Garcia House at 524 Alto Street and our iconic El Zaguán at 545 Canyon Road are the sites of significant restoration work. We interview Sean Kaltenbach, principal of New Mexico Earthworks, the contractor that is elbow deep in mud at the Garcia House. We also add a book review to this edition of a work that is enlightening about the Spanish history of New Mexico. — **Pete Warzel, HSSF Executive Director**

REMINDER: The exhibition of conceptual architectural work by Richard Martinez, HSFF Board Director and a recipient of a 2015 Heritage Preservation Award from the City of Santa Fe for his architectural work, continues through July 22. The exhibition titled Gateway to Santa Fe was featured in a Journal North article on Friday, July 10. The show can be seen at the Gallery at El Zaguán at 545 Canyon Road during normal office hours, Monday-Friday, 9AM to 5PM.



UPDATE: THE WALLS

All in all it was all just bricks in the wall.

- Another Brick in the Wall, Part III, Roger Waters, from The Wall

You may have watched the façade at El Zaguán slowly lose its peeling pink persona last year and mysterious swathes of color appear on the east end of the building. Charles Coffman and crew stripped the old layers, fixed drainage problems along the street façade and down the east side, and readied a mixture of lime plaster and pigment in test batches, to get the formula of sand, lime and color just right.

Now there is a movable structure of burlap and wood tenting/shade along the street façade. Although it looks like an art installation, it is the means of shading the new lime plaster, allowing it to dry and cure slowly to prevent cracking in the new skin. The burlap permits air cir-

ulation and can be soaked to keep the plaster moist as it cures. The tenting is a major work of art in itself.

Southwest Plastering Company, Inc. are the experts who are donating their time to do the actual plastering and they are a joy to behold as they work. The entire street façade will be done in one great push the week of July 20. The wait and the preparation was well worth the effort as you can see now with the final finish on the east end of the building. The color and texture promises to be a stunning presentation on Canyon Road given the presence of El Zaguán on the street. The Garden is spectacular this year given our weather assistance, and the work of Linda Churchill and the Master Gardeners and the wall and Garden make a statement of the Foundation's focus on this grand cultural landscape.

CANYON ROAD (LEFT) ALTO STREET (RIGHT)



1 ¼ mile west on Alameda, left over the Santa Fe River and right onto Alto Street is our Garcia House at 524. Here the wall is quite a different animal.

We have been worried about the integrity of the adobe walls beneath the hard stucco at Garcia for several years now. Charles and Bobby had done some tests in 2013 and found degradation in spots, but did not know the extent of the problem. The sale of the Rivera House behind the Garcia House in November 2014 provided funds for both a Data Base to help the Foundation better serve members and provide for fundraising opportunities and for the restoration of the walls at Garcia.

In April 2015 the Property Committee of the Board recommended that work be done and Sean Kaltenbach and his New Mexico Earthworks began taking off the stucco in stages in May. As the walls beneath were revealed and stabilized, we began to see the extent of the problems, and strategy was laid out in weekly Property Committee meetings with Sean on site to handle work flow and make decisions on specific issues.

Today the work is approximately 50% complete, which is not just adobe work, but header replacement and pouring concrete footings for stabilization of the

foundation of the wall. The adobe actually is being extended out in some sections to plumb the wall. As we came around the east wall to the front on Alto Street we ran into the unexpected – a double wall beneath the stucco, the outer of the two walls severely compromised. This work overall has presented an extraordinary look at issues in adobe maintenance and repair for the Foundation, members and the public.

Neighbors in the Alto Street area walk by every day to see progress on the walls. Visitors to Canyon Road have been quizzing Charles, Bobby and our intern Sonia on the work at El Zaguán.

Both projects are a detailed education in preservation and restoration, and we should remind you that Members are invited to a presentation at the Garcia House on Saturday, July 18, 9:00AM, by Sean Kaltenbach and HSFF Board members about exactly what is going on – the problems and the fix. Call the office for a reservation as space is limited and nearing capacity.

Book Review by Alan Peters

***Juan Bautista de Anza: The King's Governor in New Mexico* by Carlos R. Herrera**

Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2015.

ISBN-10: 0806146443.

Maps, illus., notes, biblio., index, 320 pages.

Hardcover, \$29.95.

Although Juan Bautista de Anza is one of the most significant figures in the history of the Southwest, until now there has been no comprehensive study of his life. Consequently, although most students of history are aware of his expeditions to Alta California in the 1770s, not many realize that he also was governor of New Mexico for ten years or that he played an important role in Spain's attempts to preserve New Mexico for Spain by defending it against warring Indians and implementing Bourbon reforms.

Carlos Herrera's *Juan Bautista de Anza: The King's Governor in New Mexico* chronicles Anza's life, but with the main focus on his years as governor of New Mexico (1778 to 1788). As an administrator, Anza implemented a series of re-

forms for King Carlos III. This included controlling financial waste, especially as it concerned military expenses. The king hoped that the colony would be able to defend itself with citizen militias. New Mexico represented the empire's first line of defense against warring Indians and European competitors. Because the violence in the colony had proliferated and Comanche, Apache, Utes, and Navajos had increased their raiding of Pueblo and Spanish settlements, Anza was tasked with militarizing New Mexico so that it could contribute to Spain's economic empire by ensuring the violence did not spill over into the mineral-rich areas of Zacatecas and Guanajuato.

The governor came to realize that military subjection would never fulfill the king's ultimate desire to incorporate Indians into the Spanish empire. Anza encouraged a spirit of accommodation and argued that a lasting peace could only happen when trade relations between Indians and Spaniards were opened. He implemented these ideas following his defeat of the Comanche leader Cuerno Verde in 1779. With the conclusion of a peace treaty in 1786, peaceful relations between the Spaniards and the Comanche prevailed until the Mexican era.

Director of the Borderland Institute at San Diego State University, Herrera examines Anza's position as an outsider in New Mexico. Of Basque heritage, Anza was from a prominent family in Sonora, Mexico. Herrera argues that Anza's ambition was fueled by vengeance: when Anza was four, his father was killed by Apache. According to Herrera, the independent, "haughty" New Mexicans didn't care for Anza from the moment he arrived in the colony. New Mexican Hispanos opposed having to neglect their fields in order to take up arms to defend the Spanish colony. They despised his reforms and they accused him of corruption and nepotism. Anza closed New Mexico's borders to outsiders, a move which interfered with the New Mexicans' ability to expand their financial interests. He initiated a building code that transformed settlements into militarized sites of defense. He angered Hispanos by advocating a market where Spaniards and Indians interacted on an equal basis. The Franciscans were particularly unhappy with Anza's changes as many of the privileges and powers they had wielded since the 1500s were taken from them.

The book is divided into three sections. Part one provides a brief overview of

Anza's life prior to his appointment as governor of New Mexico. This section gives short shrift to Anza's activities as commander of the Tubac presidio and his California expeditions. The second section provides an overview of Anza's governorship, with an emphasis on military and administrative reforms but with extensive treatment of Anza's encounter with the Comanche and a brief treatment of Anza's efforts to establish a road between New Mexico and Sonora. The final chapters focus on the conflicts between Governor Anza and the Franciscans. This reviewer found it awkward when the author introduced quoted material that he had written previously by referring to himself in the third person. Readers interested in Anza's personal life or his expedition to the Pacific Coast will be disappointed as they will not find much material here.

That being said, Hererra does an admirable job of setting Anza's governorship into the context of New Mexico history and the era of the "enlightened despotism" of King Carlos's reign. *Juan Bautista de Anza: The King's Governor in New Mexico* is a major contribution to Southwest studies.



INTERVIEW

SEAN KALTENBACH, OWNER OF NEW MEXICO EARTHWORKS

Interviewed by Pete Warzel

Q: Sean, tell us a bit of your background leading to your company, New Mexico Earthworks, being formed.

SK: I'm a second generation builder from Las Cruces. I grew up working for my dad in his construction company. I had a professional career out in Las Vegas NV and actually was a corporate Title Officer for Stewart Title for a few years there. I met my wife and had my two daughters there in Vegas. My wife fell in love with New Mexico, and when we had the opportunity to move back, we did.

Q: And why the interest in adobe?

SK: Growing up in Las Cruces and working with my dad I was introduced to adobe. My interest evolved thru the years and my passion probably grew from my absence from construction when I was in Las Vegas. Adobe is an incredible medium to work with. And combining it with my earth plastering, I believe it is like art for me. I think that's why I enjoy building adobe fireplaces so much. They are truly individual art pieces.

I followed my passion and started New Mexico Earth Works 5 years ago.

Q: How much geography do you cover in your work?

SK: Southern Colorado down to Marfa, Texas and West Texas to Eastern Arizona.

Q: Any projects that are of particular interest to our Members, aside from the work you are doing at the Garcia House?

SK: It's been a very exciting year. I recently started the restoration of the Pottery House, which was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. However it's been put on hold and I may not return.

We've started the restoration of the La Sala Building at the Boy Scout Ranch out-



side of Cimarron NM, and we are wrapping the restoration of 13 original pueblo village homes at the Santo Domingo Reservation.

Q: Is there any pattern you find in the problems you are contracted to work on, or are they specific to the building?

SK: Both. The basic underlying ideas and principles are applied to every project but how you go about applying them are very specific to each individual building.

Along with that, each building truly teaches us more and more. The ultimate consistency is that every project is dictated by its budget.

Q: Now, the Garcia House. When I look at the condition where you have taken off the stucco it looks like serious degradation. Is it, or am I like a lot of folks who normally don't see under the skin, over-reacting?

SK: Very serious degradation but also what you see, all very salvageable. People should be much more concerned on what's going on underneath the stucco.

Moisture is the biggest issue and what you see at the Garcia House is years and years of water getting to the walls

thru leaky roofs, canales, parapets, and cracks in stucco, and along the base/bottom of the walls. No matter how good and how much new adobe work is done, if you don't mitigate these areas then the work is done for nothing.

Q: Do you have an interest in preservation beyond your hands on work?

SK: Yes, but it did start with the actual hands on work. I attended my first International Earth USA Conference in 2011. That introduced me to the Historic side of Adobe which really was 'ALL WORLD HERITAGE SITES ARE MADE OF EARTH'.

All over the world man has had this relationship with the earth for providing shelter. Working at Santo Domingo Pueblo on the original pueblo village housing has been probably the most incredible opportunity to see that relationship and the evolution of that very special relationship to just the basic idea of a "building."

Q: What advice would you give a homeowner of an historic adobe house as to ongoing vigilance?

SK: Be very careful of who you let work on it and how they are going to work on it.

The owner should have a clear understanding of what, how, and when something is happening to their house prior to making a final decision to truly gain a thorough understanding of the issue.

Thank you for your time, Sean.

E-ZINE CREDITS

Photography by Anna Yarrow, edited by John Muller, and designed by Dominic Cappello— El Zaguán residents.

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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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JULY-AUG 2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday, July 18, 2015, 9:00 AM – Members only tour and discussion of the Garcia House adobe restoration at 524 Alto Street. Call office for reservations.

Through Wednesday, July 22 – The conceptual architectural drawings by Richard Martinez, architect and HSFF Board Member. At the Gallery at El Zaguán.

Opening Friday, Soft Opening July 24, Official Opening July 31 at the Gallery at El Zaguán – Recent paintings by Max-Carlos Martinez, a resident artist at El Zaguán. Max's colorful and finely detailed work is stunning, and this is a precursor to his work being shown in the exhibition *El Retrato Nuevo Mexican Ahora! New Mexican Portraiture Now!* Opening November 6, 2015 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

Friday, July 24 at the Garden at El Zaguán – “LET'S GROW,” a monthly education series for home gardeners, offered by the SF Master Gardener Association, is a free public event requiring no registration.

The fifth of this eight-part “LET'S GROW” series takes place on Friday July 24th from 5 -7 PM in the garden at El Zaguán—545 Canyon Road. Tour the site, hear the restoration plan, and see our historic garden in full bloom.

July 25 and 26, 2015 – Summer Spanish Market on the Santa Fe Plaza.

July – through August 28 – Music at the Bandstand on the Santa Fe Plaza.

August 22-23, 2015 – SWAIA Indian Market on the Santa Fe Plaza.

QUESTIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP?

To check your HSFF membership status and to renew or become a member, contact Jacqueline or Bonney at (505) 983-2567.

SHARE WITH US.

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