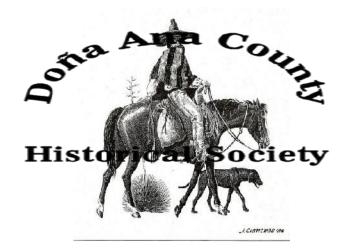
Mesilla Park School ca. 1907



Doña Ana County Historical Society

47th Annual Awards Program

Saturday, January 25, 2014 Double Eagle Restaurant, Mesilla



The Doña Ana County Historical Society was founded in 1963 to encourage and foster a better understanding of the County's far reaching history for future generations. Emphasizing research, education, and preservation, the society encourages a greater appreciation of New Mexico history, especially that of Doña Ana County.

Founding Members

John Atshool, Betty Bowen, Helen Caffey, Laiten Camien, Martin Campbell, Ira Clark, Adlai Feather, Louis Freudenthal, Dorothy Mechem, Hugh Milton, Thomas Mitman, Helen Shomer, David Streeter, J. Paul Taylor, and Mark Thompson

Doña Ana County Historical Society 47th Annual Awards Program

Welcome	Jon Hunner, Master of Ceremonies
Last Thoughts	Marcie Palmer, President, 2012-2014
Introduction of Officers and Board Members	Susan Krueger, President, 2014-2016

Program

"Mesilla Park Historic Properties"

NMSU Public History Class Project

Overview Jon Hunner, Student Participants Alex Inshishian, David McIntosh, James Thumm, and Julie Wojtko

Awards

Properties of Historical Significance, and Worthy of Preservation Mesilla Park	
Old Timer Award Fabian Garcia Science Center	
Papen Community Center (1907 Mesilla Park School)	
Heritage Award David and Janet Clements	
Pasajero Del Camino Real Award	

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Jim Eckles, George Helfrich, Doyle Piland, Buddy Ritter, Mary Kay Shannon, and Sara Wagner

Committees

Southern New Mexico Historical Review: Rick Hendricks Website: Mary Lou Pendergrass Newsletter: Doyle Piland, Editor Education/Scholarships: Jon Hunner Publicity: Jim Eckles Book Sales: Carl Eichstaedt, Susan Krueger, and Sara Wagner Awards: Mary Kay Shannon, Mary Lou Pendergrass Liaison to City Museums: Mike Walczak Liaison to Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum: Scott Green Liaison to NMSU Public History Program: Julie Wojtko

Awards

Buildings Worthy of Preservation

The award is given to encourage an owner to preserve the uniqueness of a building in Doña Ana County that is distinguished by its age and historical character, its historical significance, or that represents historical architectural character. Residential, commercial, and industrial buildings are eligible.

Recent Recipients:

- 2006 Adobe Barn, 2350 Calle de Parian, Mesilla
- 2007 The Amador Hotel, 180 W. Amador, Las Cruces
- 2008 St. Frances de Sales Catholic Church, 105 N Jose Serna St, Rodey
- 2009 CCC Camp and Schoolhouse, 535 S. Melendres St, Las Cruces
- 2010 Buildings of the Doña Ana Historic District, Cristo Rey St, Doña Ana
- 2013 Butterfield Overland Trail

Buildings and Properties with Historical Significance

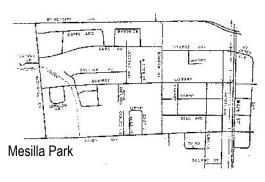
This designation can be applied to a property, including a district, a building, structure, or object, which is at least fifty years old. Criteria used to evaluate historic significance of a property include association with a significant historic event or person and/or incorporation within the property of historic characteristics of a period of time or a method of construction or an architectural style.

Recent Recipients:

- 2010 Jacobo Chavez House, Alameda Depot Historic District, Las Cruces
- 2011 Santa Fe Railroad Depot, 351 N Mesilla St, Las Cruces
- 2012 Newberry Farm, 1815 Shalem Colony Trail, Fairacres Mark Thompson House, 409 W. Las Cruces Ave., Las Cruces
- 2013 Butterfield Overland Trail, across Doña Ana County

Buildings Worthy of Preservation and Buildings and Properties with Historical Significance: 2014 Mesilla Park Historic Properties

In August, 1887, the Rio Grande Land Company acting for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad published a plat for a community to be called Mesilla Park. At the time it was three miles from Las Cruces. Mesilla Park was bounded on the east and south by the center of the old river bed and on



the north and west by the property of George Bowman. Mesilla Park was enlarged in 1894 with the Bowman Addition.

When the Land Grant College (now NMSU) was built it was half a mile from the Mesilla Park Railroad Depot. In 1890 Bowman built a bridge over the acequia, connecting College Avenue directly to College Row and the

Horsehoe on campus. Faculty, staff, alumni, and students built, bought or rented houses in the community. Rooms and apartments were soon available. Many of the older homes belonged to people whose names now grace academic halls at the university, such as George Gardiner, a physics professor who founded NMSU's Physical Science Laboratory, and Goddard Hall.

One of the buildings of historical significance is the home owned by Ralph Willis Goddard, a pioneering engineering dean at NMSU who built the first student radio station in New Mexico. Another historic building is the Papen Community Center, formerly the Mesilla Park Elementary School designed by Trost & Trost Archictects.



Goddard House, 419 College Ave.

A thriving business district included two general merchantiles stores, several grocery stores, a barber shop, a hotel, and livery stable. Progress brought gasoline stations, garages, tourist courts, and campgrounds. There were also hay sheds, a cotton gin, and a lumber yard.

A group of New Mexico State University students led by Prof. Jon Hunner spent the 2013 fall semester researching the history of older buildings in the core of Mesilla Park. The goal of this project was to lay groundwork for a nomination for the neighborhood to the state



and national registers of historic places. The students who participated in the survey included: Chantel Baker, Cassandra Canada, Frannie Cochran, Scott Foster, Mark Garnes, Josephine Ingle, Alex Inshishian, Whitney Jacobs, Henry Ludwig, David McIntosh, David Mercer, Steven Needle, Jackson Ocheltree, Kari Richards, Stephanie Stewart, James Thumm, Addison Warner, and Julie Wojtko.

The survey documented the properties and families who lived there. Any changes to the buildings over the years were also assessed. There are at least



35 properties that are over 100 years old. Another 120 stuctures are over 70 years old.

The survey of Mesilla Park has identified well over 150 structures, many are of Historical Significance and are Worthy of Preservation.

ATSF Depot, Mesilla Park

Old Timers Award

Old Timers Award:

The Old Timer's Award recognizes a cherished object, natural phenomena or cultural tradition prominent in Mesilla Valley heritage that would otherwise escape recognition as an important part of the character of this region and that deserves public attention. **Recent Recipients:**

- 2005 Gadsden Museum
- 2006 Rock Walls of Las Cruces
- 2007 Jardin de Mesquite Gateway
- 2008 Seed House & Story Tree
- 2009 Green Bridge
- 2010 Cotton Gins
- 2010 Olin Calk Roadrunner
- 2011 The City Hall Lions
- 2013 Picacho Peak

2014: Fabian Garcia Science Center





The Fabian Garcia Science Center has been an integral part of the land grant mission of New Mexico State University for over 100 years. Experimental agricultural research has occurred here dating back to 1906 when Fabian Garcia worked at the site. Garcia, a professor of Horticulture from 1906-1945, was named the first director of the State Agricultural Experiment Station in 1913. As a horticulturist, Garcia was hailed as the "Luther Burbank of the Southwest", when he produced the first reliable chile pod. This standardized the plant for easier harvest and was the beginning of the hot "Sandia" pepper. Garcia provided rooms on this farm to house Mexican-American students during their studies at New Mexico College

of Agriculture & Mechanical Arts. The Garcia Center has played an important role in the development of agriculture in the Mesilla Valley and indeed, all of New Mexico, it continues to be a vibrant station for the experimentation and development of crops from chile to cotton, from grapes to pecans, and from onions to shrimp.



The Fabian Garcia Science Center is an important part of the Mesilla Park neighborhood and is recognized with an Old Timer Award. Accepting the award is Dr. Tracey Carrillo, Assistant Director of Campus Farms Operations, NMSU Ag Experiment Station.

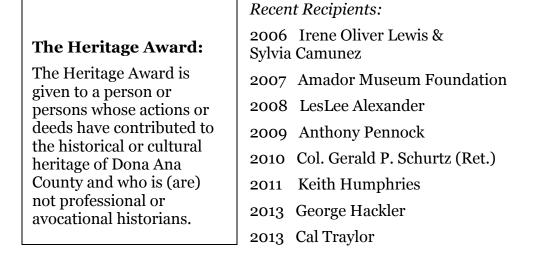
2014: Papen Community Center (Mesilla Park Elementary School)

The school in Mesilla Park started out as a four room building designed by Henry Trost in 1907. Additions were made to the building in 1916, 1934, and 1943. These additions were based on the original Trost elements and contribute to the historical significance of the building. It continued to serve as a school until 1974 when a new elementary school was built on Union Avenue. The City of Las Cruces then



utilized the facility as a recreation center, and completed major renovations to the facility in the 1990s. In May 2012 it was rededicated as the Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center. An individual nomination to the state and national registers for historic places for the Center is being prepared by NMSU graduate student Francis Cochran. The Center recieves an Old Timers Award as it continues to serve the residents of Mesilla Park.

Heritage Award



2014: Janet and David Clements

Janet and David Clements are committed to historic preservation. They have lived in historic homes in numerous places, including in Illinois, Ohio, and now Mesilla Park. Having lived in southern New Mexico for almost a decade, they became key participants in the preservation of Mesilla Park three years ago. Working with then City Councilor Delores Connor and now Greg Smith, they have organized the Mesilla Park Branding Committee, Clean Neighborhood Committee, and conducted the initial research at the Doña Ana County Assessor's office into the real estate records of the buildings in Mesilla Park. This research provided an invaluable foundation for the survey of Mesilla Park begun last fall in preparation for a district nomination to the state and national registers of historic places. They commented that they "get something out of a renovated home that you don't get anywhere else." For their decades' long commitment to preserving our past and their recent work focusing on Mesilla Park, Janet and David Clements have earned this year's Heritage Award.

Pasajero Del Camino Real Award 2014 Jim Eckles Pocketful of Rockets: History and Stories Behind White Sands Missile Range

Jim Eckles arrived at White Sands Missile Range in 1977. He spent most of the next 30 years in the Public Affairs Office dealing with news and community relations. From the start, he was hooked by the history of White Sands. He found the science and technology interesting, and found joy in the stories of the pioneers and the area history.

In *Pocketful of Rockets,* Jim shares the stories behind the military façade, legends and mysteries, great deeds and humorous mistakes, of Native Americans, pioneers, scientists, every day people, and missiles. Reading the book is like taking a personal tour of the range with Jim.



Pasajero Del Camino Real:

This award is given to author(s) of a significant historical publication about events, persons, places or issues in Doña Ana County or the nearby area. The Society should strongly consider works by its members and those persons living and writing in Doña Ana. **Recent Recipients:**

- 2005 Mary Daniels Taylor,
 - A Place as Wild as the West Ever Was: Mesilla New Mexico 1848-1872
- 2006 George Hackler, Butterfield Trail in New Mexico
- 2007 Dr. Jon Hunner, Inventing Los Alamos: The Growth of an Atomic City
- 2009 Paula Moore, Cricket and the Web
- 2010 Marvin Tessneer, Journalist, Las Cruces Sun-News and Las Cruces Bulletin

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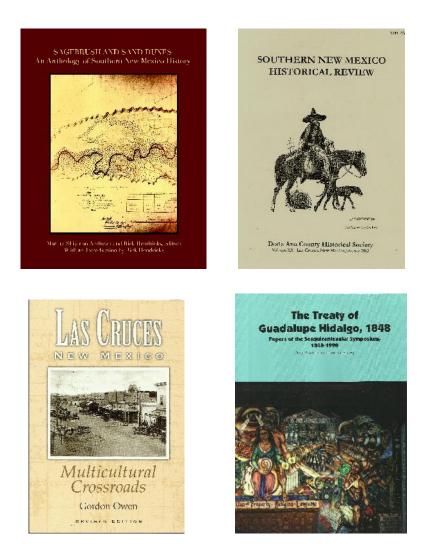
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