



iEL Boletín!

Winter 2008

The Old Santa Fe Association Preservation News

Preserving Santa Fe since 1926



One of the cakes shared with the public on the Plaza for the 50th-anniversary celebration of Santa Fe's historic-styles ordinance (see page 2).

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OSFA Efforts in 20089

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52-Foot Crane Highlights Courthouse Height Concerns



OSFA shows height of proposed County Courthouse.

In late January, the Old Santa Fe Association raised a "cherry-picker" on Sandoval Street 52 feet high - the height of the proposed County Courthouse. It remained there three days drawing substantial attention from downtown commuters and the city's newspapers.

"Our intent is to make our community aware of the visual impact of this project on the neighborhood," according to Marilyn Bane, president of OSFA. "We are delighted that the courthouse will remain a vital part of our downtown, and we appreciate the need for larger and more suitable space for the overcrowded and overburdened First Judicial District Court," said Bane. "We just want it to

be as compatible as possible with Santa Fe's historic ordinance and the historic downtown district."

OSFA is encouraging the county to continue a dialogue with the community on the plans. "We have had previous discussions with the county architects that have resulted in positive design changes," said Rad Acton, secretary of the OSFA board. "We feel there could be even more fruitful and productive results if the county would be amenable to further design discussions."

As a result of OSFA's efforts, two more meetings with the architect have taken place and a third meeting will be scheduled for late February.

Community Comes Together for *¡Posole on the Plaza!*

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the City's Historic Ordinance



Featured speakers City Councilor Rebecca Wurzburger and Mayor David Coss.

While traditional northern New Mexico and mariachi music played, locals and visitors were treated to cake and posole.

"I ran into lots of friends that I hadn't seen since grade school," was one of the most satisfying remarks heard about Santa Fe's Celebration honoring the 50th anniversary of the Historic Styles Ordinance. The event drew several hundred neighbors to the Plaza on Saturday, October 27th. While traditional northern New Mexico and mariachi music played, locals and

visitors were treated to cake and posole, hosted by City of Santa Fe Historic Preservation Division, the Historic Design Review Board, the Historic Santa Fe Foundation and, of course, the Old Santa Fe Association.



Mayor Coss served as Master of Ceremonies commemorating the ordinance and its importance to the community. Councilor Wurzburger, a strong supporter of the event, noted that the ordinance has not only protected Santa Fe's historic character, but its continued existence shows that today's citizens hold the same values and traditions as those who developed the ordinance. Nancy Meem Wirth, Cecilia Rios, Tom Udall and Pen LaFarge spoke eloquently and personally on behalf of our whole community.



People Enjoy Posole on the Plaza



People Enjoy Posole on the Plaza



OSFA Challenges Condo Project

On November 29, the Old Santa Fe Association (OSFA) filed a court challenge to the City Council's 5-3 approval last May of a dense 19-unit condominium project in a ravine off Old Taos Highway.

Legal briefs by OSFA's lawyers, Fred Rowe and Dan Yohalem of the Santa Fe Neighborhood Law Center, contested council approval of the developer's rezoning request for the two-acre site as illegal "spot-zoning" of a steep and unique tract with drainage and sewage problems.

According to Marilyn Bane, president of OSFA, the intervention was filed to protest the misuse of the zoning process. "The City Council's approval of this project is a violation of the city's General Plan, a violation of the city's zoning codes and a violation of the integrity of the city's entire zoning process. Further, it is a violation of our community's trust that the city will protect its citizens' health, safety and welfare from hazards such as noise, traffic, fumes and pollution from the adjacent Route 599 freeway interchange," Bane said. At the close of

the May 9 public hearing, Mayor David Coss voiced the same concern. He recognized that the Council's approval was based on the developer's inducement of affordable housing on the north side, but said that it raised "an environmental justice issue of working class families next to a highway interchange."

"If we do this," Coss cautioned, "we will be throwing out the rest of the rules and the rest of the planning."

OSFA's brief also criticized the council's May 9, 2007 decision as contravening "administrative due process of law" because of its failure to include findings of fact and legal conclusions on key issues as required by state law governing administrative appeals from "quasi-judicial" land use decisions.

OSFA firmly supports diverse housing opportunities and affordable housing as a civic priority throughout Santa Fe, consistent with the General Plan and pertinent city ordinances administered with impartiality and due process of law.

OSFA firmly supports diverse housing opportunities and affordable housing ... consistent with the General Plan and pertinent city ordinances.

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We have increased our involvement in city and county issues, increased our communication with City Hall, increased our collaboration with other organizations, increased our visibility within the community and, most importantly, increased our membership.

Message from the President

I would like to thank our board for its tireless work in 2007, and all our members who have given the time and effort to support OSFA's efforts throughout this past year.

As a result, we have increased our involvement in city and county issues, increased our relationships within City Hall, increased our collaboration with other groups, increased our visibility within the community and, most importantly, increased our membership.

Last September, however, we lost a dedicated lifetime member of our organization, Irene Von Horvath. We are deeply saddened at Irene's death, and also deeply grateful for her generosity in willing us her home

on Canyon Road. According to her personal representatives, "Irene's great generosity was motivated by OSFA's mission."

Now, in the beginning months of 2008, OSFA is even more committed to fulfilling that mission. Please help us in reaching our goals by renewing your membership in OSFA today.

To receive OSFA e-mails, sign on at www.theoldsantafe.com. Or, you can always call me directly at 984-8428.

Warmly,



Marilyn Bane
President



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OSFA Efforts in 2007...

OSFA successfully works to upgrade the city Historic Preservation Section to a Division.

OSFA petitions City Council to not adopt Downtown Vision Plan.

OSFA receives Sara Melton Preservation Award.

OSFA votes to protest high-density housing near the Old Las Vegas Highway and Old Pecos Trail intersection.

January

OSFA presses for "findings of fact" from the Historic Design Review Board (HDRB) to reduce number of appeals to City Council
OSFA offers to subsidize an Historic Ordinance orientation for HDRB, staff and City Council members
OSFA works with the HDRB to streamline the board's tasks by giving staff preliminary review decisions in routine cases
OSFA advises on proposed development of St. Catherine's Indian School; registers concern over "benign neglect" of historic buildings
OSFA Board approves purchase of Web site domain www.theoldsantafe.com

February

OSFA Board welcomes new officers: Marilyn Bane, President; Tim Maxwell, Vice President; Richard Ellenberg, Secretary; Richard McCord, Treasurer
OSFA asks school board for postponement of status review of Carlos Gilbert and Acequia Madre schools
OSFA supports adoption of new State Codes prior to approving a green building code

March

OSFA works to protect the Manderfield School by adding it to the state registry
OSFA reviews preliminary architectural plans for the new County Courthouse
OSFA requests inclusion of a member of the historic preservation community on the Convention & Tourist Bureau advisory committee
OSFA Board members press for division status for the Historic Preservation Section at City Hall

April

OSFA reviews model of the proposed Lencic Project with Jeff Seres and Alexis Girard; requests special meeting regarding height
OSFA sponsors Rita Garcia as a candidate for La Reina in the Fiesta Court
OSFA Board votes not to endorse the Downtown Vision Plan and petitions the City Council not to adopt the plan without further refinement
OSFA reaffirms our 20-year support for water in the Santa Fe River
OSFA plans new Cultural Preservation Award to be given during Preservation Week

May

OSFA receives Sara Melton Award from the HDRB, presents Cecilia Rios with OSFA's first Cultural Preservation Award during

Preservation Week Awards ceremony

OSFA meets with Jack Hiatt, Acting Director of Planning and Land Use, receives assurance that Historic Preservation Section will be a Division under new reorganization plans; volunteers to offer guidance and ideas about changes in the Historic Code, particularly on appeals and procedures
OSFA Board votes to testify against proposed high-density housing near the Old Las Vegas Highway and Old Pecos Trail intersection, as it is the last remaining historic entry into Santa Fe
OSFA supports retaining the footprint of one of the oldest stone walls in Santa Fe on Paseo de Peralta between Washington Avenue and Otero Street, while reducing the height for public safety purposes; repeats concerns that a negative outcome could set a dangerous precedent affecting all the walls, driveways and streets in our historic districts

June

OSFA agrees to be a sponsor of the upcoming symposium "Liquid Assets: Using Water in the Arid Southwest" to be held in November
OSFA sends letter to Cultural Properties Review Committee in support of putting Manderfield School on the historic register
OSFA joins subcommittee to plan celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Historic Ordinance in October
OSFA attends meetings on Downtown Park and Shuttle Opportunities, presses for comprehensive marketing plan to include discounted parking rates for locals

July

OSFA and the Historic Santa Fe Foundation (HSFF) establish reciprocal honorary positions for Chairs on respective boards
OSFA joins in effort to help save the endangered historic Fountain Theatre in La Mesilla, N.M.
OSFA recommends past president Karen Walker for OSFA's position on the Historic Design Review Board, replacing retiring member Jane Farrar; Karen was subsequently appointed by Mayor Coss.

August

OSFA reviews City's Affordable Housing Needs Assessment Research with Kathy McCormick, head of Housing and Community Development
OSFA votes unanimously to retain counsel to advise the board on legal steps regarding the proposed county

(Continued on page 9)

OSFA Efforts (Continued from page 8)
courthouse

OSFA encourages city to coordinate with Beijing, China, contact to bring more than 50 mayors from China to next year's Preservation Week

OSFA celebrates life of lifetime member Irene Von Horvath

September

OSFA board authorizes three members to speak on behalf of OSFA to advise the county on matters pertaining to the county courthouse

OSFA attends Early Neighborhood Notification meeting on the Santa Fe Flood Fringe Variance; promotes analysis and review by the Historic Design Review Board for the preservation of the flood plain

October

OSFA hears presentation from Keith Toler, director of the Santa Fe Convention and Tourist Bureau, receives summary of new study on tourism in Santa Fe; this research confirms OSFA's promotion of the city's historic buildings, culture, traditions and viewscapes

OSFA along with the Historic Santa Fe Foundation, Historic Design Review Board and the city's Historic Preservation Division host celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Historic Ordinance with "Posole on the Plaza," featuring red and green chile, Territorial- and Pueblo-style cakes, Northern New Mexican bands, and dignitaries Mayor Coss, Peter and Nancy Meem Wirth, Tom Udall, Chris Calvert and others

OSFA continues to meet with county architects on the proposed county courthouse; testifies against height, massing and design before the Historic Design Review Board

OSFA assists implementation of the Manderfield School being placed on the State Historic Register by the Cultural Properties Committee

OSFA urges the Business/Capital District

Design Review Committee to reject the four-story height, mass and the overbuilding on the lot of the proposed Lencic project

November

OSFA puts Planning Commission on notice that the city's affordable housing requirements will be avoided by the developer of the Lencic project

OSFA becomes first client of the new non-profit Santa Fe Neighborhood Law Center; the NLC was formed to preserve, protect and enhance the civic role of neighborhood associations in legal and policy matters. Patterned on the public interest law firms of the 1960's, the NLC will provide legal resources in support of community-wide civic causes impacting neighborhoods

OSFA and the NLC agree to join in the appeal by a neighborhood association of the Old Taos Highway rezoning decision by the City Council reflecting improper amending of the General Plan

OSFA continues program to educate and inform real estate agents/brokers on the significance and requirements of the Historic Ordinance

December

OSFA testifies before the BCD-DRC against the variances requested by the developer of the Villas at the Lencic; asks that the developer reduce the overall massing and height of the building to conform to the city's Historic Ordinance

OSFA holds annual meeting; elects officers; reports 20 percent yearly increase in membership; focuses on more and better contact with members through forums and the organization's new Website e-mail capability

OSFA testifies before the HDRB against the height exception requested for a proposed new building on vacant land next to the existing Healy-Matthews building on Cerrillos Road

OSFA and the Historic Santa Fe Foundation establish reciprocal positions.

OSFA supports placing Manderfield School on the State Historic Register.

OSFA joins with neighborhood association to appeal City Council rezoning decision.

OSFA testifies against heights of proposed new buildings.

... and Efforts in 2008

January

OSFA board votes to thank Governor Richardson for moratorium on drilling in the Galisteo Basin

OSFA president and board members meet with developer of proposed *Paseo Santa Fe* project on Archdiocese property; informally register concerns and offer advice on the process

OSFA raises 52-foot crane on Sandoval

Street to show the public the height of the proposed County Courthouse; front-page coverage by both Santa Fe daily newspapers as funding in support of the effort pours in; OSFA gains more new members

OSFA president and board members meet with state personnel to discuss plans for the proposed state parking garage west of the Roundhouse

Pasaron por Aquí

Irene was a principal architect of Santa Fe's Historic Styles Ordinance, which noted its 50th anniversary last October.

Irene von Horvath. A pioneering champion of historic preservation passed from the Santa Fe scene when Irene von Horvath died on September 6, 2007 at the age of 88. A city resident since 1953, she threw herself into the life of the city, and was a principal architect of Santa Fe's Historic Styles Ordinance, which noted its 50th anniversary last October.



Von Horvath never stopped quietly working for things she felt were vital for Santa Fe.

In a long and very full life, von Horvath was born in Russia in 1918, fled the country as an infant with her family to escape the Bolshevik Revolution, spent her early childhood first in China, then Europe, then came to America at the age of 12 to rejoin her father, a biochemistry professor based in Princeton, N.J. The family moved to Pittsburgh, where she completed high school and studied architecture at Carnegie Institute for Technology, in that school's first coeducational class.

Her first glimpse of New Mexico and Santa Fe came in December 1942 when she was 24, after she won an architectural contest with the prize of a cross-country bus trip. At the time she was virtually unaware of Santa Fe, but a travel agent urged her to put it on her itinerary, because "everybody goes to Santa Fe." On a cold winter evening she got off her bus on Route 66 at the Moriarty junction, then waited by the highway to be picked up and taken to

Santa Fe. She saw no houses and almost no trees, and she thought she had made a big mistake.

Eventually a little van came for her, and began the drive northward. As it passed through the village of Galisteo, the sun was setting; and as she looked westward, von Horvath watched the most spectacular sunset she had ever seen. In Santa Fe the smell of piñon smoke wafted through the air, and the narrow streets were lined with low adobe structures. She could hardly believe she was still in the United States.

"Love at first sight" was what she called her initial impression—but 11 more years would pass before she had saved enough money to return. In the meantime, she worked in New York City, always dreaming of New Mexico. When she came back in 1953, she came back to stay.

She found a house on Garcia Street, and got a job designing rural health clinics for the state Department of Health. Fascinated by the local architecture, she started attending every session of the city Planning Commission. When an opening came, Mayor Leo Murphy appointed her to fill it—because, she always said, he felt the need to choose a woman Republican, for balance. (She later changed her political allegiance, and also bought a house on Canyon Road, near the intersection with Camino del Monte Sol.)

An architectural clamor arose in the mid-1950s after the erection of the modernistic Desert Inn at the intersection of Old Santa Fe Trail and Alameda Street, in the heart of Santa Fe's most historic district. Mayor Murphy responded by asking von Horvath and some other prominent Santa Feans—among them writer Oliver La Farge and attorney Sam Montoya, who later became chief justice of the state Supreme Court—to draft a historic-styles ordinance. They did, and in

(Continued on page 11)

Treasures (Continued from page 10)

1957 it was enacted into law as one of the nation's first.

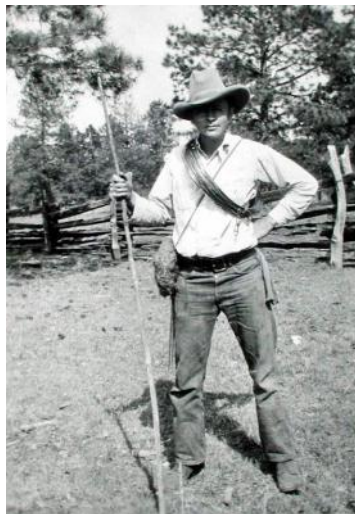
Von Horvath never stopped quietly working for things she felt were vital for Santa Fe. She fought for Hispanic names on local streets; against state plans for a major highway through the downtown; against development on Atalaya Mountain. A few years ago she donated wooded and rolling land in the Sangre de Cristo foothills to become a hiking trail, and insisted that the trail be named for a friend, artist Dorothy Stewart.

Irene von Horvath was buried in a small cemetery overlooking the northern Estancia Valley, near the place where she first gazed upon New Mexico, 65 years earlier. After her death, her will revealed one final, lasting and enormous gift she made to the cause of historic preservation. Named as inheritor of her extremely valuable Canyon Road property was the Old Santa Fe Association. Whether OSFA sells, leases or utilizes the property, it is sure to be a major factor helping the organization advance its mission.

John "Jack" T. Watson, one of the twentieth-century leaders of historic preservation in Santa Fe, died on September 7, in the third month of his 100th year. Jack arrived in Santa Fe in 1936, joining his father's law firm and later serving on the state Supreme Court. John Gaw Meem, Jack's neighbor, recruited him into Santa Fe's historic preservation movement. Jack then served on the board of directors of the Old Santa Fe Association. When

the need for a nonprofit preservation organization was recognized, Meem, established the Historic Santa Fe Foundation with Watson's help.

Jack was also an active member of the New Mexico Historical Society. His lifelong interest in history and archaeology led to his enthusiastic support of the School of American Research, now the School for Advanced Research. Those interests also led Jack to travel to many of the world's great cultural monuments. His wife, Jane, who died in 1984, was a strong supporter of Santa Fe's cultural preservation efforts and served on many boards. Jack's interest in historic preservation inspired his son, Alan "Mac" Watson, to pursue a career in the discipline. As was his father, Mac is currently an OSFA board member and operates Watson Conserves, a business focusing on historic planning, preservation and education.



Jack Watson, "rod and chain man" for the U.S. Geological Survey in the 1920s.

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Our Mission

“To promote the prosperity and welfare of the city and county of Santa Fe and their inhabitants, to preserve and maintain the ancient landmarks, historical structures and traditions of Old Santa Fe and to guide their growth and development in such a way as to promote that unique charm and distinction, born of age, culture, tradition and environment, which are the priceless assets and heritage of Santa Fe.”