

# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

# memo

**DATE:** September 22, 2026

**TO:** Historic Districts Review Board Members

**VIA:** Heather Lamboy, AICP, Planning & Land Use Department Director *HL*  
Maggie Moore, Assistant Land Use Director, WRM

**FROM:** Lani McCulley, Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Division, *LGM*

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**2026-012488-HDRB. 925 Canyon Rd. Downtown & Eastside Historic District. Non-contributing.** Grant Alexander, agent for Lithe LLC, owner, proposes to construct a 2,301 sq. ft. residence to a height of 14'-0" where the maximum allowable height is 17'-10" and construct a 6'-0" high coyote fence.

**REFERENCE ATTACHMENTS (Sequentially):**

**CITY SUBMITTALS**

☐ District Standards & yard wall  
& fence standards.

☒ Historic Inventory Form

☒ Zoning Review Sheet

☒ **Other:** previous case documents, stucco  
guidelines

**APPLICANT SUBMITTALS**

☒ Proposal Letter

☒ Site Plan/Floor Plan

☒ Elevations

☒ Photographs

☐ **Other:**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the proposed project and finds that the application complies with Section 14-4.6(E) General Design Standards for all Historic Districts and Section 14-4.6(G)(2) Downtown and Eastside Design Standards.

**Sample motions:**

- a. In case 2026-012488-HDRB, for 925 Canyon Road, approve or deny the application as submitted.

The property lies within the Historic Downtown Archaeological Review District. See Chapter 14, SFCC, Article 14-3.13(B)(1). There may be archaeological concerns associated with this project, and archaeological clearance may be required.



Figure 1: Property Location

**BACKGROUND & SUMMARY:****Background:**

This case was scheduled to come before the HDRB on June 9, 2026, with a request to remodel the existing structure and construct a new building. However, after reviewing staff's recommendation, the applicant chose to postpone the case for a redesign before presenting it to the Board. The Applicant has chosen to remove the request for the remodel of the existing structure and concentrate solely on the new structure at this time.

**Streetscape:**

The streetscape for the property is defined as extending from the intersection at Acequia Madre to just past Palace, approximately halfway to Camino del Monte Sol. The streetscape consists of a park and a combination of residential and commercial properties. The street has a sidewalk on the north side of the road at the eastern end, and a walking path along the side of the road through the remaining streetscape. There is no walking area on the south side of the road. Fencing is a combination of styles, with a wood fence at the park, rock walls, stucco walls, combinations of stone and stucco, wire, and non-stuccoed CMU walls, coyote fencing, and some walls with latillas on top. There are some taller walls and fences at 87” to 188” in height, as well as some very low walls and fences at 35” to 40”. The street average is 60”.

The lots vary in size. The buildings are set back from the street by three to ten feet, with most of them within five feet of the street. The commercial structures are located at the western end of the streetscape, with the residential structures at the eastern and central ends. The south side of the road is mostly Spanish Pueblo Revival style buildings with a few Territorial style buildings. The north side is mostly vernacular with a few pitched roofs and a few Spanish Pueblo Revival style buildings.



Figure 2: Street View of Residence

**Site Description:**

The residence at 925 Canyon Road is a non-contributing vernacular-style two-story structure in the Downtown and Eastside Historic District. The 1,558 sq. ft. home was constructed sometime between 1950 and 1958 and is on 0.203 acres.

The residence sits at the front of the lot abutting Canyon Road. The residence is constructed of a combination of concrete block and adobe with block massing, crisp edges, a pronounced seamed metal fascia, deep inset windows, which are mostly aluminum slider windows, three exterior single-leaf doors, and a flat asphalt roof. The north elevation holds the two-story portion of the structure, as this is the lower portion of the sloped lot, which was constructed sometime between 1958 and 1966. A non-historic 1984 plywood porch with a shed roof is located on the south elevation and wraps around to the west elevation. The west and south elevations of the residence are obscured by a concrete masonry unit wall at a height that ranges from 5'-9" to 6'-10". This wall was constructed sometime before 1973, but after 1966.

The rear of the lot is mostly dirt and is used for parking. There is a non-historic open shed at the very rear of the lot.

**PREVIOUS CASE SUMMARIES:**

**ARC:**

No Archaeological clearance has been issued for this property.

**HDRB:**

On October 28, 2025, under case 2025-011227-HDRB, the HDRB retained the status of the residence as non-contributing.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

No previous cases are on file in the Historic Preservation Division.

**APPLICANT'S REQUEST:**

The applicant requests to:

- 1) Construct a 2,301 sq. ft. freestanding recent Santa Fe style residence to a height of 14'-0" where the maximum allowable height is 17'-10".
  - a. The roof will be flat with parapets.
  - b. The windows will be wood-clad with simulated divided lite where publicly visible and single lite where not, in a dark bronze.
  - c. The doors will be glass doors in dark bronze.
  - d. Stucco the residence in synthetic "Suede," which is an allowed color per *"Stucco Styles, Material, and Color Guidance in the Historic Districts."*
  - e. The wood trim and elements will be stained in Old Masters "Weather Wood."
- 2) Demolish the shed. The shed was previously removed from the property. It was a metal shed of recent construction which leaned to the side and had no door in the opening.
- 3) Construct a 6'-0" high coyote fence along the north and west property lines.
- 4) Construct yardwalls and gates to the west and east of the new residence to define its yard space.



Figure 3: Proposed Floor Plan with Yard Walls

## **RELEVANT CODE CITATIONS:**

### **14-4.6 HISTORIC DISTRICTS**

#### **A. General Provisions**

##### **Purpose**

In order to promote the economic, cultural, and general welfare of the people of Santa Fe and to ensure the harmonious, orderly, and efficient growth and development of the City, the Governing Body deems it essential to preserve the qualities relating to the history and culture of Santa Fe, maintain a harmonious outward appearance to preserve property values, and attract residents and tourists alike. The specific purposes of this section are to preserve qualities relating to the history of Santa Fe, such as the following:

- I. Continue the existence and preservation of historic areas and buildings;
- II. Continued construction of buildings in Santa Fe's historic styles; and

- III. General harmony as to architectural style, form, color, height, proportion, texture, and material between buildings of historic design and those of more modern design.
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## **C. Buildings with Significant or Contributing Historic Status**

### **3. Review by Historic Districts Review Board Required**

- I. Except where this chapter provides for review by staff, the HDRB shall review all applications for new construction, alteration, or demolition in the historic districts and of landmark structures throughout the city, based on the standards set forth in this section.
- II. The historic board shall judge any proposed alteration or new structure for harmony with adjacent buildings, preservation of historical and characteristic qualities, and conformity to the standards for architectural style set forth in this section.
- III. The HDRB may approve, deny, approve with conditions, or, with the consent of the applicant, postpone an application.
  - a. For applications approved with conditions, no permit shall be issued until the HDRB conditions have been met.
  - b. An application that is postponed shall be heard at a date agreed upon by the HDRB and the applicant.
- IV. No permit shall be issued until the time for appeal to the Governing Body has expired.

### **4. Compliance with General and Specific Design Standards Required**

All development located within the historic districts and subject to this section shall comply with all applicable general development standards set forth in Section 14-4.6E, *General Design Standards for All Historic Districts*, as well as any applicable specific development standards set forth in Section 14-4.6G, *Additional District-Specific Design Standards*.

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## **E. General Design Standards for All Historic Districts**

These standards shall apply to all additions or alterations to existing structures in the Historic Districts. Contributing, significant, and landmark structures may be subject to specific additional restrictions and district-specific standards in Section 14-4.6(G).

### **I. General**

- I. The historic status of a property with a historic status designation of significant, contributing, or landmark structure shall be retained and preserved. If a proposed alteration will cause a property to lose its significant, contributing, or landmark status, the application shall be denied. The removal of historic materials or

alteration of architectural features and spaces that embody the status quo is prohibited.

- II. If a proposed alteration or new construction will cause an adjacent property to lose its significant, contributing, or landmark status, the application may be denied.
- III. For the regulations of this subsection, all facades of a significant structure are primary facades.

## 2. Building Additions

### I. Design

- a. Building additions that meet the standards of Section 14-4.6G.2), *Downtown and Eastside Historic District*, shall continue to meet those standards, in addition to the standards set forth in this section.
- b. Building additions shall have similar materials, architectural treatments and styles, features, and details as the existing structure, but shall be distinguishable from and not attempt to duplicate the existing structure.

### II. Size and Location

- a. Building additions are not permitted on primary facades.
- b. All building additions shall be set back a minimum of ten feet from the primary facade.
- c. Building additions shall not exceed 50 percent of the square footage of the building's historic footprint and shall not exceed 50 percent of the historic length in linear feet of the primary facade.
- d. To the extent architecturally practicable, new building additions shall be attached to any existing non-primary facade of a structure rather than attaching them to the primary facade of a structure.

### III. Height

- a. The maximum height of building additions to significant and landmark structures shall be at least six inches lower than the parapet or equivalent roof feature of the existing adjacent connecting facade.
- b. Building additions to contributing structures shall be no more than one additional story higher than the existing structure. To the extent architecturally practicable, two-story additions shall be set to the rear or the side rear of the structure. When an additional story is to be placed upon an existing contributing structure, that footprint may be no greater than fifty percent of the footprint of the existing structure, subject to the provisions of Subsection A(1) above. For the purposes of this paragraph, an additional story shall not exceed twelve (12) feet from the existing rooftop to the highest point of that story.

### IV. Remodeling to Increase Height

- a. For remodeling of an existing significant or landmark structure, no increase in height of the structure is permitted.
- b. For remodeling an existing contributing structure, a height increase may be permitted through approval of an exception, as described in Section 14-4.6D.

V. Rooftop Equipment

Rooftop equipment, including but not limited to solar collectors, clerestories, decks, or mechanical equipment, may only be installed on contributing and noncontributing structures and shall not be publicly visible, nor shall a parapet be raised to conceal such equipment.

3. Porches and Portals

Existing porches or portals on significant and landmark structures, and on primary facades of contributing structures, shall not be permanently enclosed.

4. Windows, Doors, and Other Architectural Features

I. For all facades of significant and landmark structures and for the primary facades of contributing structures:

- a. Historic windows shall be repaired or restored wherever possible. Historic windows that cannot be repaired or restored shall be duplicated in the size, style, and material of the original. Thermal double-pane glass may be used. No window opening shall be widened or narrowed.
- b. Window depth and other characteristics of window and door fenestration shall be preserved.
- c. No new opening shall be made where one presently does not exist unless historic documentation supports its prior existence.
- d. No historic opening shall be closed.

II. For all facades of contributing, significant, and landmark structures:

- a. Architectural features, finishes, and details other than doors and windows shall be repaired rather than replaced.
- b. In the event replacement is necessary, the use of new material may be approved. The new material shall match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities.
- c. Replacement or duplication of missing features shall be substantiated by documentation, physical, or pictorial evidence.

5. Roofs

The existing historic roof styles and materials shall be maintained or replaced in kind if necessary. The addition of dormers or other roof features should only be considered when they are an existing historic feature of the structure.

6. Surface Cleaning

The surface cleaning of structures shall employ the gentlest means possible. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials are not permitted.

7. Archaeological Resources

Discovery of archaeological resources made during the development of a historic property shall be referred to the Archaeological Review Committee. See Section 14-2.1G.1.V.c, *Unexpected Discoveries*.

8. Signs
9. Murals
10. Pedestrian-Oriented Areas

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**F. Height, Pitch, Scale, Massing, and Floor Stepbacks.**

The height, pitch, scale, and massing of any structure in a historic district, as defined in this section, shall be limited as provided for in this section, unless further restricted elsewhere within this chapter.

**I. Applicability**

The following sections identify specific areas and specific projects subject to this section. The Planning and Land Use Director shall determine whether or not properties are included within this section.

**I. Specific Areas**

The height limitations in this subsection F apply:

- a. Within the following historic districts:
  1. Downtown and Eastside;
  2. Don Gaspar Area;
  3. Historic Transition; and
  4. Westside-Guadalupe.
- b. In the Historic Review district, as specified herein.

**II. Streetscape Standards**

**III. Project Location**

Planning and Land Use Department staff shall determine the applicability of this section to individual projects and the applicable streetscape

**2. Height**

**I. Official Map of Building Heights in the Historic Districts - Procedures**

**II. Height Limitations**

The HDRB shall limit the height of structures as set forth in this section. Heights of existing structures shall be as set forth on the official map of building heights in the historic districts.

- a. If a proposed building has a parapet, the façade shall not exceed two feet of the average height of the façades in the streetscape.
- b. If the proposed building has a pitched roof, the ridge height of the proposed building shall not exceed two feet of the average of the ridge height of the pitched roofs in the streetscape.
- c. Yard walls and fences shall be limited to a height that does not exceed the average of the height of other yard walls and fences in the streetscape.
- d. The height of any other structure shall be limited to the allowable building height within the applicable streetscape, as defined in this section.
- e. The height and dimensions of signage are as set forth in Section 14-7.61.

*Sign Regulations in the Historic Districts.*

- f. The HDRB may increase the allowable height for proposed buildings and additions located on a sloping site where the difference in the natural grade along the structure's foundation exceeds two feet. In no case shall the height of a façade exceed four feet above the allowable height of the applicable streetscape measured from natural or finished grade, whichever is more restrictive. This increase in height shall be constructed only in the form of building setbacks from the street.

**III. Height Measurement**

- a. In historic districts, height shall be the vertical distance measured between the highest part of a structure and the existing grade or finished grade, whichever is more restrictive, at the midpoint of the street-facing facade, excluding rooftop appurtenances, the increased height of walls or fences over pedestrian and vehicular openings, and gates (either in open or closed position).
- b. For structures that do not have street frontage, height shall be determined by the facade that contains the tallest vertical distance measured between the highest part of a structure and the existing grade or finished grade, whichever is more restrictive. The height of walls and fences is measured from the street-facing side of the wall or fence.

**IV. Pitch**

If the determined streetscape includes over 50 percent of buildings with pitched roofs, the proposed building may have a pitched roof. A pitched roof is defined as a gable, shed, or hipped roof. The pitch of the roof shall match the predominant pitch extant in the streetscape.

**V. Scale**

The height of a proposed building or addition, its façade length, and its roof form and pitch shall appear to be in proportion to the height, façade length, and roof form and pitch of buildings in the applicable streetscape, or the building on which the addition is proposed.

**VI. Massing and Floor Stepbacks**

The HDRB may require that upper floor levels be stepped back to carry out the intent of this section; provided that the HDRB in making such determinations shall take into account whether the height of the proposed building, yard wall, fence, or proposed step back of upper floor levels is in harmony with the massing of the applicable streetscape and preservation of the historic and characteristic visual qualities of the streetscape. The HDRB shall also require that the publicly visible facades of the structure be in conformance with Section 14-4.6G, *Additional District-Specific Design Standards*, and, in meeting those requirements, may require that different floor levels be stepped back.

**G. Additional District-Specific Design Standards**

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## 2. **Downtown and Eastside Historic District**

The governing body recognizes that a style of architecture has evolved within the city from the year 1600 to the present, characterized by construction with adobe, hereafter called "old Santa Fe style", and that another style has evolved, hereafter called "recent Santa Fe style", which is a development from, and an elaboration of the old Santa Fe style, with different materials and frequently with added decorations.

### I. **Old Santa Fe Style**

Old Santa Fe style, characterized by construction with adobe, is defined as including the so-called "pueblo" or "pueblo-Spanish" or "Spanish-Indian" and "territorial" styles and is more specifically described as follows:

- a. With rare exception, buildings are one story; a few have three stories, and the characteristic effect is that the buildings are long and low. Roofs are flat with a slight slope and surrounded on at least three sides by a firewall of the same color and material as the walls or of brick. Roofs are never carried out beyond the line of the walls except to cover an enclosed portal or porch formed by setting back a portion of the wall or to form an exterior portal, the outer edge of the roof being supported by wooden columns.  
Two-story construction is more common in the territorial than in other sub-styles, and is preferably accompanied by a balcony at the level of the floor of the second story. Facades are flat, varied by inset portales, exterior portales, projecting vigas or roof beams, canales or water-spouts, flanking buttresses and wooden lintels, architraves and cornices, which, as well as doors, are frequently carved, and the carving may be picked out with bright colors. Arches are almost never used except for nonfunctional arches, slightly ogival, over gateways in freestanding walls.
- b. All exterior walls of a building are painted alike. The colors range from a light earth color to a dark earth color. The exception to this rule is the protected space under portales, or in church-derived designs, inset panels in a wall under the roof, in which case the roof overhangs the panel. These spaces may be painted white or a contrasting color or have mural decorations.
- c. Solid wall space is always greater in any façade than window and door space combined. Single panes of glass larger than thirty (30) inches in any dimension are not permissible except as otherwise provided in this section;
- d. The rules as to flat roofs shall not be constructed to prevent the construction of skylights or installation of air conditioning devices, or any other necessary roof structures, but such structures other than chimneys, flues, vents, and aerials, shall be so placed as to be concealed by the firewall from the view of anyone standing in the street on which the building fronts;
- e. True old Santa Fe style buildings are made of adobe with mud plaster finish. Construction with masonry blocks, bricks, or other materials with which the adobe effect can be simulated is permissible, provided that the exterior walls are not less than eight (8) inches thick and that geometrically straight façade lines are avoided. Mud plaster or hard plaster simulating adobe, laid on smoothly, is

required; and

- f. It is characteristic of Old Santa Fe style commercial buildings to place a portal so that it covers the entire sidewalk, the columns being set at the curb line.

## II. Recent Santa Fe Style

Recent Santa Fe style intends to achieve harmony with historic buildings by retention of a similarity of materials, color, proportion, and general detail. The dominating effect is to be that of adobe construction, prescribed as follows:

- a. No building shall be over two stories in height in any façade unless the façade shall include projecting or recessed portales, setbacks, or other design elements;
- b. The combined door and window area in any publicly visible façade shall not exceed forty percent of the total area of the façade except for doors or windows located under a portal. No door or window in a publicly visible façade shall be located nearer than three (3) feet from the corner of the façade;
- c. No cantilevers shall be permitted except over projecting vigas, beams, or wood corbels, or as part of the roof treatment described below;
- d. No less than eighty percent of the surface area of any publicly visible façade shall be adobe finish or stucco simulating adobe finish. The balance of the publicly visible façade, except as above, may be of natural stone, wood, brick, tile, terra cotta, or other material, subject to approval as hereinafter provided for building permits;
- e. The publicly visible façade of any building and of any adjoining walls shall, except as otherwise provided, be of one color, which color shall simulate a light earth or dark earth color, matte or dull finish, and of relatively smooth texture. Facade surfaces under portales may be of contrasting or complementary colors. Windows, doors, and portals on publicly visible portions of the building and walls shall be of one of the old Santa Fe styles, except that buildings with portals may have larger plate-glass areas for windows under portals only. Deep window recesses are characteristic
- f. Flat roofs shall have no more than thirty (30) inches of overhang.