

# HISTORIC SANTA FE

MONTHLY E-MAGAZINE OF THE HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION

MAY 2016

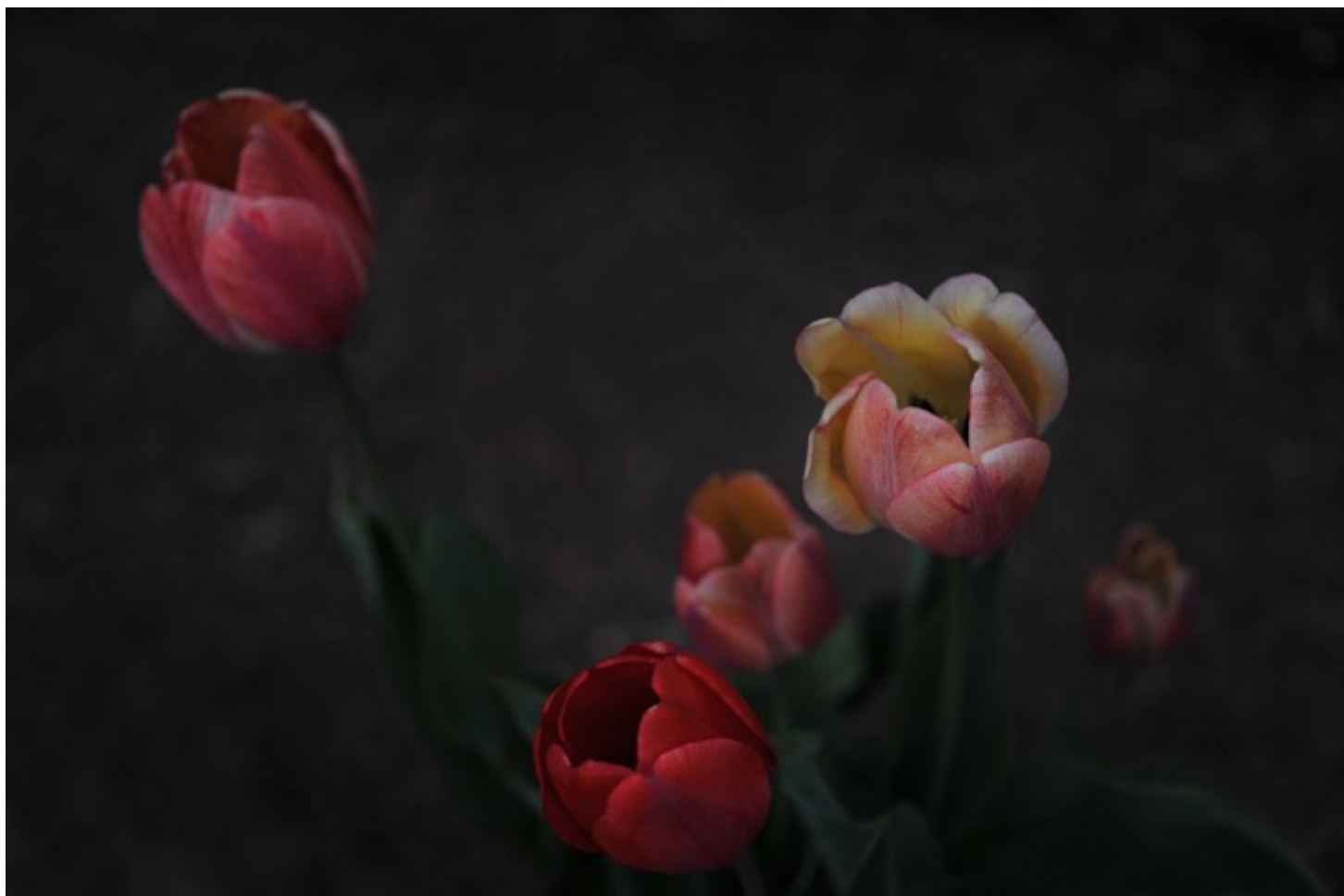


# INSIDE HISTORIC SANTA FE

For this issue of the eZine, Conci Bokum offers one of her last installments of the *From the Archives* articles. This issue features a timely article on Saint Catherine's Industrial Indian School, a structure that has been in the local news recently for its proposed sale and development. State Historian Rick Hendricks provides HSFF readers with a brief article on this year's New Mexico Historical Conference that occurred in Farmington, NM in April. Hendricks is also our honored speaker for this month's Salon El Zaguán on the topic of churches of Pojoaque and Nambe on May 17th at 3pm. Finally, HSFF discovers a digitized photograph in their archives and goes on a hunt to identify the building in *This Building: Naming the Unidentified*.

**As always, we look forward to hearing from you.**

—Melanie McWhorter, Historic Santa Fe Foundation Development Associate





## **THANK YOU ALL**

The staff of Historic Santa Fe Foundation were quite busy these last few weeks with the Mother's Day Tour preparations.

The tour was a success and we are already making plans for next year's event. We want to thank all of our volunteers and HSFF Board members who helped make this year's tour a success.

We would also like to thank Liz Cale of Santa Fe Properties, Rick Hendricks and Thomas Shumaker of the Office of the State Historian, Jeff Pappas and the staff at New Mexico State Historical Preserva-

tion Office, David Blackman and the docents from Preserve San Miguel, Rick Smith of The "Oldest House, St. Michael's High School and Sutapa and Jay Schecker and family.

We salute the people who generously donated time, services and their locations to HSFF for the annual event.

Finally, thanks to our sponsors:

**Santa Fe Properties**

**Paper Tiger on Montezuma**

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**Del Norte Credit Union**

**Inn of the Five Graces.**





Photo: St. Michael's Dormitory circa 1915, Courtesy Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NMHM/CDA) Negative no. LS.0469

**By Melanie McWhorter**

## **THIS BUILDING NAMING THE UNIDENTIFIED**

Our archives committee is one of the most active committees at Historic Santa Fe Foundation and even more so since

last year when we received a grant from the State of New Mexico to organize the wealth of information contained in the files and folders of El Zaguán. Just as with any archive that has a legacy naming system that has not been standardized, we have inappropriately named documents that need to be inspected and orphaned photographs within our physical and digital organization. One of the wonderful databases that we use to

identify the persons or buildings that may be in one of the photographs is the institutional knowledge of many of our volunteers, board members and supporters. While looking for a photograph to illustrate an article for the HSFF newsletter this last March, I found an unidentified digital file named "LS.0469.jpg." Curious, I wondered, "Where is this? What is happening?"

The image, likely a scan of a hand-colored magic lantern slide, showed a celebration in front of a three-story building, with "all the 19th century appurtenances of a tower, porticos, galleries, a veranda and Mansard roof." The upper floors are festooned with banners with an American flag mounted to the lower floor's exterior while a statue rises above the crowd in the front of the building. Honored guests, many of whom judging by their garb appear to be members of the Christian Brothers, occupy the second- and third-story balconies and on-lookers pack into the front garden replete with umbrellas to deter either the monsoon rains or the high-elevation, skin-scorching New Mexico sun. The foreground is lined with Territorial-era bricks captured with the camera mounted on an upper floor of the building across from the festivities' grounds.

I was bewildered. What was this unidentified building? One might think it easy to identify with the very specific architectural details. I started with the internet. Santa Fe has lost many structures during the years and some of the images of said structures live in state archives that have been digitized, but Google Images was no help with the identification.

I thought who better than the amazing human resources that I have at my literal fingertips. Next step, I emailed the image around to a few board and committee members at HSFF.

Our first respondent was at a loss.

In the second email that I received, one of the HSFF Board Members replied,

**"I have a pretty good sense that this is the "American Building," built (circa 1881) by the Sisters of Charity as the main building for Loretto Academy on what is now the Old Santa Fe Trail and the present site of the Inn at Loretto. The French Mansard style of architecture is one giveaway, as is the white marble statue of the Virgin out front and what appears to be a Catholic priest on the 2nd floor balcony."**

**"The image you sent me may well be the dedication of the building, given the crowd, the bunting and the priest,**

**who just might be Archbishop Lamy. HSFF has an intimate connection with the building, as two sets of doors and several of the 3rd floor windows were salvaged by Charlotte White for use in the Donaciano Vigil (Charlotte White) House on Alto Street.”**

Agreed that the Loretto Academy had the same Mansard roof and some of the same architectural features. Both buildings were influenced by Santa Fe's Archbishop Lamy who was born in France in 1814 and arrived in New Mexico in 1851. (Meem, 1963). Great response.

Another email from the same respondent soon followed, **“I believe this is a photo of the opening celebrations for the first sanitorium in Santa Fe, originally intended to be Sister Blandinas's Industrial School for Girls. The building was constructed at the east end of what is now Cathedral Park; it burned to the ground in 1896.”**

Then, the same volunteer later in the day countered her original guess, **“The photo Melanie sent is of the dedication of the so-called American Building at Loretto, which I believe was constructed of sandstone quarried from Cerro Colorado at Lamy. Blandina’s First Industrial School/St. Vincent's**

**Sanatorium was constructed of red brick.”**

**Yet the more HSFF's Preservation Specialist Mara Saxer and I kept looking at the photo, it just did not quite match up. It felt a bit like the game that kids from my generation played while watching the PBS children's show Sesame Street, “Which one of these things is not like the other?”**

Mara did a bit more digging and was able to find the image on the Palace of the Governor Photo Archives website (Uncropped version illustrated at the top of article\*).

Here is Mara's response:

**“Looking at the photos a bit more, Melanie and I both had a bit of a gut feeling that they might still be of different structures. There are a few telling architectural details that vary - the Loretto Academy building had a Palladian window where the mystery building had only one arched window, the ground floor windows were shaped a bit differently, and second floor balcony was absent. Because of this slightly off feeling I poked around a bit more and happened upon photos of the College of Saint Michael's that looked remarkably similar. Searching**

## **under that name brought me to our mystery photo, with identification in the Palace of the Governor's Archive!"**

The building still exists, but in 2016, the former St. Michael's Dormitory has only two floors because of a fire on November 30, 1926 that damaged much of the third level. The tower and third floor were never rebuilt, instead the other floors were repaired and a new roof was added after the fire. The State of New Mexico moved into the offices in 1970 after they halted plans to demolish the structure in 1968. The building has been home to State offices since their personnel moved in to the building in January 1970.

With a little sleuthing, we figured out the where of the photo. The what is happening will take a bit more detective work. The archives at HSFF hold unidentified treasures and identification is often a bear of a task that occasionally leaves us with some unresolved questions.

St. Michael's Dormitory is on the HSFF Registry of Resources Worthy of Preservation. The building is now named the Lamy Building and located at 413 Old Santa Fe Trail in Santa Fe, NM.

\*HSFF's digital file was cropped and did not include the text in the uncropped Palace of the Governors' file.

## **Links to other relevant illustrations:**

### **St. Michael's Dormitory 1881**

<http://econtent.unm.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/wittick/id/865/rec/1>

### **Loretto Academy**

<http://econtent.unm.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/acpa/id/16325/rec/10>

<http://econtent.unm.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/acpa/id/1121/rec/13>

### **St. Vincent's Sanitorium**

<http://econtent.unm.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/acpa/id/15680/rec/16>

<http://econtent.unm.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/acpa/id/5443/rec/11>

## **References:**

Calloway, Larry. State government offices move into old school dorm. *The New Mexican*. 11 January 1970.

Landmark will go. *The New Mexican*. 22 November 1968.

Meem, John Gaw (ed.). Let's Keep Our Heritage... *The New Mexican Pasatiempo*. 19 May 1963.

The Old Dormitory of St. Michael's. HSFF Archives. n. d.



# NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE IN FARMINGTON

Just over two hundreds friends and lovers of New Mexico history gathered in blustery, beautiful Farmington from April 14th through the 16th for the 2016 annual conference. One of the highlights of the event took place on the first evening when attendees gathered to share a meal and listen to the remarks of Anne



RICK HENDRICKS

Hillerman at the opening plenary session. In addition to sharing stories about her late father, novelist Tony Hillerman,

Anne related what it was like to take over his beloved characters, Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee, and make them her own. She also noted that she was finally giving Bernadette Manuelito the opportunity to solve a case.

There was a day and a half filled with stimulating presentations covering a very wide range of topics. One session in particular would have been of interest to the members of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. It was entitled "New Mexico's Historic Communities and Ranches" and consisted of three speakers. Derek LeFebre spoke on the theme of the "Reproduction of Hispano Villages

in the Jicarilla Apache Domain". Derek explored the development of Guadalupe and Ocate in the latter half of the nineteenth century. You will no doubt recall that Guadalupe is part of the Guadalupe/Coyote Historic District, which is listed on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties. Baldwin G. Burr addressed the topic of "The Historic Ranches of Northeastern New Mexico." Finally, Cynthia E. Orozco from Eastern New Mexico University's Ruidoso campus presented on "A 20th-Century History of Lincoln, New Mexico." Cynthia discussed the rise and fall of the community in light of the Lincoln County War.

Next year's history conference will be a joint affair with the Arizona Historical Society and will take place in Flagstaff.

**Rick Hendricks**  
**State Historian**

**[www.hsnm.org](http://www.hsnm.org)**

**[www.hsnm.org/conference-2](http://www.hsnm.org/conference-2)**



# FROM THE HISTORIC SANTA FE FOUNDATION ARCHIVES

BY CONCI BOKUM

On Monday, April 18, 2016, the lead article in *The New Mexican* described the possible purchase of the St. Catherine Industrial Indian School for use as low and moderate priced housing.

St. Catherine's was a school beloved by many former students and staff. In the HSFF archives are excerpts from an interview with Patrick Toya who came from the Jémez Pueblo and was a student from 1947 to 1948. "I came alone," he said, and "the boys were very friendly." The school required the students to speak English. His primary language was Towa, and while he understood English when he arrived, it was still hard to speak in English. When he went in the Navy, he got "a good job" in communications. "That all came from St. Catherine's... I had St. Catherine's always in my heart. When I left Jémez that was the place where I learned to be independent."

Another former student, Bob Chavez of Cochiti Pueblo, a graduate of the first high school class, vowed to devote his life to the school if he survived the Bataan Death March and four years in a Japanese prison camp. He worked for the school for 52 years coaching various sports, starting a successful art program as a volunteer and raising funds for the school through the sale of his art and that of his students.

The school was founded in 1886 by Katharine Drexel, a wealthy heiress who donated money to build and furnish the main building which was run with government funding until 1893 when the funding ceased and the school closed. Meanwhile Katharine Drexel had taken religious vows and in 1891 founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians. Mother Katharine and nine Sisters reopened the school in the fall of 1894 as St. Catherine's Industrial Indian School. St. Catherine's became the first Indian

mission of the Order that subsequently opened day and boarding schools in the East, Midwest, South and Southwest. In 1917, she founded Xavier University in New Orleans to prepare teachers. Mother Katharine was debilitated by a heart attack in 1935 and died in 1955. She was canonized as a saint by Pope John Paul II in the fall of 2000; her image appears on the retablo in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi here in Santa Fe.

By the 1990's funding was insufficient to keep the school open, and it closed in 1998. Space was leased to the Santa Fe Indian School, but by 2000, the campus was for sale - the same year that Katharine was made a saint.

The school was purchased in 2005 by Max Tafoya who hoped to sell some of the land to the Santa Fe National Cemetery and rehabilitate the buildings for use as a museum or for government buildings. The following year, the City Council and the Historic Preservation Division designated some of the buildings as cultural landmarks, and the school was added to the HSFF Register of Buildings Worthy of Preservation. Although there have been several potential buyers, no

one has been willing to restore the deteriorating structures.

In 2012, the city filed a lawsuit accusing the owner of "demolition by neglect." Judge Yalman found that the city had proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the landmark buildings were suffering under the company's ownership and ordered a structural needs assessment that the owner could use to repair and restore the exterior of the buildings. The owner subsequently declared bankruptcy and the buildings have continued to deteriorate.

Maybe this latest offer to buy the campus for \$2 million dollars will save this landmark that has meant so much to generations of children, parents, teachers and staff and that commemorates the life and dedication of St. Katharine.

**eZINE CREDITS:** Photos by Anna Yarrow. Designed by Dominic Cappello—El Zaguán residents.

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## MAY 2016 **EVENTS CALENDAR**

Tuesday, May 17th, 3pm, El Zaguán, 545 Canyon Road, Suite 2, **Salon El Zaguán**, Members-only lecture by Rick Hendricks. Hendricks will speak about the churches of Nambe and Pojoaque, RSVP required.

Thursday, May 19th, 5:30pm, La Fonda on the Plaza, 100 E San Francisco St. **Santa Fe Annual Heritage Preservation Awards.** The awards are sponsored by Historic Santa Fe Foundation, The City of Santa Fe's Historic Preservation Division and Old Santa Fe Association. The ceremony honors OSFA for its 90th anniversary and a reception follows the awards ceremony.

Sunday, May 22nd at 10:45 am before the 11am service, 311 E Palace Ave, **The Church of the Holy Faith Plaque Ceremony. HSFF and The Church of the Holy Faith celebrate the church's inclusion on the Register of Worthy Properties** with an ceremony recognizing the newly installed plaque.

Friday, June 3rd through Tues., June 28th. **Ten Traumas to Talk About: Adverse Childhood Experiences Illustrated by Dominic Cappello.** An Exhibition at El Zaguán, 545 Canyon Road, Suite 2.

Saturday, June 4th, 8am-1pm. **HSFF Yard Sale, Behind El Zaguán**, 545 Canyon Road. The staff has cleaned out many years worth of great furniture and home goods and some El Zaguán residents will have items and art for sale.

### HSFF **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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