

St. Joseph Apache Mission Restoration Project



Illustrated Progress Report for November 2004 through April 2005



Volunteers Susan Biles and Tom Briones

This winter season we have restored and strengthened approximately half of the west wall, starting from the top and working down.



Along with the discovery of many holes (and bat caves) in the west wall we found that the window frame is actually supporting part of the stone arch above.



Arylis, Tommy and Brother David hard at work.



To strengthen the window frame Preservation Architect Dale Zinn designed a steel reinforcing arch. Here Tommy and Brother David hold the plywood prototype of the reinforcing arch.



CVE Machine & Welding of High Rolls, NM, fabricated the steel reinforcing arch. After our crew installed the two halves of the steel arch, Carroll Vann and Lonnie Stanbrough welded the pieces together.



Before



After

Besides replacing deteriorated mortar of the west wall, the restoration crew treated the lumber of the roof beams with wood preservative, reinforced the roof beams where they entered the west wall with additional lumber, and installed copper screening to seal off a favorite roosting areas for bats - between rafter and stone wall.



Restoration crewmembers Brother David Paz, Mary Serna, Tommy Spottedbird and Brother Peter Boegel at the New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance conference in Taos, NM.



The people of Mescalero are happy to welcome back Father Paul Botenhagen, OFM for his second assignment as Pastor of St. Joseph Apache Mission.



The two sections of roof on the east end of the church await the crew from *Smith Roofing* of Las Cruces, NM to install the new roofing material.

The new clay roof tiles for the east end are delivered to the church, with forklift and operator supplied by the Mescalero Apache Tribe.





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This has been a very productive time for the restoration project, and many of our efforts are bearing fruit. After more than two years of research, compiling material, and fine-tuning the paperwork, the nomination has been approved for St. Joseph Apache Mission church to be placed on the **National Register of Historic Places**. Hooray! The National Register is the official Federal list of historic properties worthy of preservation. As you may recall, last June the church was placed on the **New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties**. Additionally, St. Joseph Apache Mission church is on the 2005 New Mexico Most Endangered Places List. These listings do not lessen our control or ownership of the church, but offer State and Federal protection to help ensure that this church and veteran's memorial will continue to serve the people of Mescalero and the thousands of visitors that come each year. All of these designations give the church an official status and the notoriety needed to be eligible for certain foundation grants, such as the "Save America's Treasures" matching grant.

We would like to give a special thanks to Jim Steely, Senior Historic Consultant at SWCA, who helped with editing the State and National applications. Cody Browning, the Mescalero Tribal Archaeologist, who did the surveying. Pete Eidenbach, Associate Professor, New Mexico State University, and Sara Eidenbach, Human Systems Research, for the mapping and consultation. Dorothy Cave Aldrich, author, for consultation, information, encouragement and moral support. Holly Houghten, Mescalero Tribal Preservation Officer, for consultation and information. Lynda Sanchez, author, for information, support and encouragement. Ellyn Bigrope, Mescalero Cultural Center and Museum Curator, for information. Rick Wessel, NM Environmental Scientist-Historic Preservation Office, for information and support. Henrietta Stockel, author, for information.

Also a huge thank you to John Murphy from the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office, for guidance and direction. And last but not least the Serna family for their sacrifice, encouragement and patience while Mary dedicated extra time to successfully pursue this official recognition.

Over the years the restoration project at St. Joseph Apache Mission has been blessed with many people wanting to lend a hand. Currently one volunteer stands out as extra-special. Tom Briones is a native of Las Cruces, New Mexico who works as an electrical engineer in Houston, Texas. Last summer Tom visited the Mission and was enthralled with what we were doing, so he asked if he could help. Since that visit Tom has traveled to Mescalero every month to spend a day getting dirty and working hard. Note that Houston to Mescalero is at least a twelve-hour drive! Each way!

Tom's enthusiasm for the restoration project has infected his fiancée, Susan Biles, who has offered a hand as well. Tom and Susan are planning to be married at St. Joseph Apache Mission next fall. This is just one example of people deciding to make this special place a part of their lives. Although we welcome volunteer help, it takes a large time commitment because of the training needed to learn the repointing techniques. Many people help in many ways, the Restoration Team continues to grow.

We now are gearing up for the summer season and have already selected our trainees. It is nice to see that there are young people who want to take a dirty, physically difficult job for the summer because of their appreciation for the importance this church and veteran's memorial has to their families, to their community. The crew is looking forward to getting to know the new trainees and getting back outside to finish the work on the exterior east wall.

Last fall the scaffolding was set up on the interior of the west wall. The past six months the crew has been involved in repointing the stonework and reinforcing the roof beams. Eventually it will be necessary to replace the badly deteriorated colored Plexiglas panels that make up the window in this wall. The crew has made good progress repointing the mortar, which proved to be quite weak. We are about half-way done with the restoration work needed on this wall. Many passageways for bats and cold air have been plugged up as the stone wall is strengthened. The work is moving along quite nicely; adding Arylis Chee to the crew fulltime has been a big help.

We discovered some structural damage to the concrete arch above the large window in the west wall. Preservation architect Dale Zinn advised us to install steel reinforcement to this arch. **CVE Machine & Welding** in High Rolls, NM did a beautiful job fabricating the steel reinforcing arch to Mr. Zinn's specifications. After the restoration crew installed the two-piece steel arch onto the concrete arch above the window, Carroll Vann and Lonnie Stanbrough of **CVE** climbed the scaffolding and welded the two halves together. The steel is painted to match the color of our mortar.

On April 25th the new clay roof tile was delivered for the two small roof sections on the east end of the church. Preliminary preparation roof work was done last fall, and we are now waiting for Smith Roofing of Las Cruces to apply the new flashing, moisture barrier and the new stronger *Ludowici* clay roof tiles. The estimate to re-roof the entire church is just over \$150,000. Working in phases we will re-roof the church in sections as funds become available. Dale Zinn, describes the re-roofing as "a critical preservation intervention necessary to protect the structural integrity of the roof members and masonry walls." Mr. Zinn is the historic preservation architect for this restoration project.

In April most of our crew (Peter Boegel, OFM, David Paz, OFM, Tommy Spottedbird and Mary Serna) attended the 9th annual New Mexico Historic Preservation Alliance (NMHPA) conference. This year the conference was held in Taos, NM. It was an enjoyable, educational gathering of people involved in many different types of preservation work throughout the state. Our project was given praise for helping to train skilled restoration specialists. During the conference we viewed a short video about St. Joseph Apache Mission produced by the NMHPA. It is a beautiful piece we will use to help tell the story of this church and our important restoration efforts.

One of our successful fundraising events is the annual restoration raffle. This year the drawing will be held on Sunday October 2, 2005. Last year's raffle brought in over \$8,000.00; about a quarter of that from people who not only participated in the raffle, but made additional donations as well. This year our goal is to raise \$10,000. The first prize will be \$500 donated by the Restoration Committee members. Currently we are accepting Native American art and craft works for the raffle.

Since 1998 we have raised \$784,494 for this restoration project. Of that amount 36% came from private foundation grants, 51% from individual donations, and 13% came from fundraising activities along with interest earned. Our total expenses to date add up to \$657,676. Approximately 75% of these funds have been used for labor and training expenses. The Stewardship Program of people who donate monthly, our "Restoration Heroes" have contributed \$29,800 since the program began in May 2003. As of April 30, 2005 the balance in the restoration fund was \$126,818. Of this amount \$32,208 is committed for the roof work needed and \$31,000 for training. InKind value from donations of time and services this fiscal year to date has been \$111,404.

Thus far we have received grants or major donations from the Stockman Family Foundation, the Frank J. Lewis Foundation, the William R. and Virginia Hayden Foundation, the Robert and Evelyn McKee Foundation, the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, the Naudin Foundation, the Burkitt Foundation (through the El Paso Community Foundation), the Rayonier Foundation, Katherine D. Ortega through the Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program, the Johnston-Lemon Group, Inc., the Chatlos Foundation, and the Franciscan Friars of the Saint Barbara Province.

Enclosed is a financial statement for the past six months, along with an illustrated progress report showing the important work you helped support. Also enclosed is the latest issue of our Restoration Project newsletter, "The Burden Basket." This semiannual publication is sent to all of our donors, while the more detailed Progress Report is sent to supporting foundations, major donors, and other interested people.

This important restoration project is successful because of the dedication of many people. We thank you for your contribution, and we continue to work hard to maintain a high level of excellence in our work. Together we are ensuring that this sacred landmark and active parish church will continue to meet the needs of the many people who come here. We hope that you are proud of the work that you are supporting, not only on the building, but with the young adults who benefit from this project in tangible and in intangible ways.