

Museum of
New Mexico
SINCE 1909

100
YEARS



Palace of the Governors



New Mexico Museum of Art



Museum of Indian Arts & Culture



Museum of International Folk Art



New Mexico State Monuments

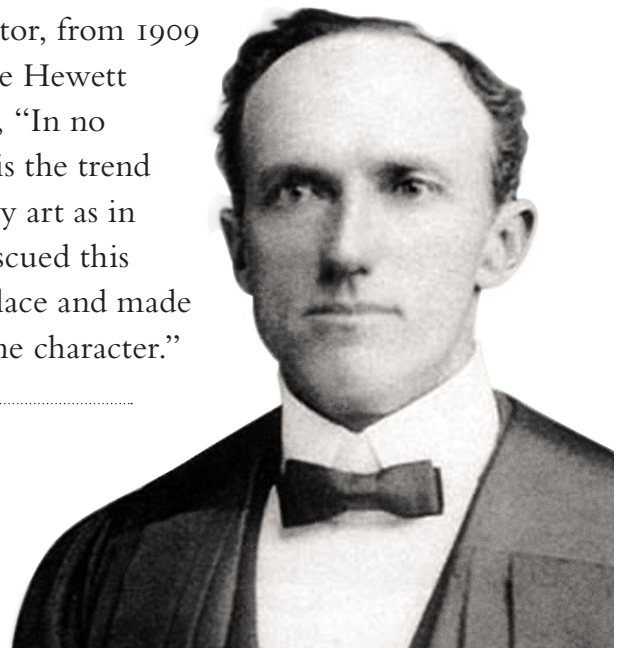
On February 19, 1909, the New Mexico Territorial Legislature passed a law establishing the Museum of New Mexico, designating the historic Palace of the Governors on the north side of the Santa Fe Plaza as its home—three years before New Mexico became a State.

Nearly a century later, those pre-statehood ambitions of the New Mexico Territorial leaders have grown into what is widely considered to be the nation's largest system of state-run museums, historic monuments, and other arts and cultural programs.

In 2009, the Museum of New Mexico marks its 100-year birthday with 100 special exhibitions and events planned through the state. The cornerstone of that celebration will be the much anticipated grand opening on Memorial Day weekend of the New Mexico History Museum, currently being built behind the Palace of the Governors, the institution that started it all.

The Museum's first director, from 1909 until 1946, was Edgar Lee Hewett (1885–1946). He claimed, "In no other state of this union is the trend of life so clearly shaped by art as in New Mexico. Art has rescued this state from the commonplace and made it conscious of its own fine character."

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Please refer to the chronological history on the back of this page for more information.



A chronological history of the Museum of New Mexico and related events, organizations and people

1859	Historical Society of New Mexico (HSNM) organized (December 15, at the Palace of the Governors).	1938	Two more new State Monuments are established by MNM: Paa-ko and Abo.	1978	Girard Foundation Collection is given to State of New Mexico to be housed in MOIFA.
1885	HSNM opens museum in the east end of the Palace (September 24), the first public history museum in the southwest.	1940	Coronado State Monument is dedicated (May 19) and the Glorieta Battlefield site is acquired by MNM State Monuments.	1979	Dorsey Mansion State Monument opened to public (later transferred to private ownership).
1906	U.S. Congress passes Preservation of American Antiquities Act, based on drafts by Edgar Lee Hewett.	1940	Hall of Ethnology is installed by the Museum of New Mexico in old State Guard Armory.	1979	Governor Bruce King creates Office of Cultural Affairs.
1907	Edgar Lee Hewett appointed Director of American Archaeology for the Archaeological Institute of America (January 2). AIA establishes the School of American Archaeology (SAA) in Santa Fe. Hewett appointed Director (December 31).	1946	Edgar Lee Hewett dies (December 31). His remains are interred in the wall of the Courtyard of the Museum of Fine Art.	1982	Opening of Girard Wing at MOIFA.
1909	Museum of New Mexico established as education and outreach wing of SAA by Territorial Legislature (February 19). Hewett is named Director. SAA/MNM moves into west end of the Palace.	1947	The Laboratory of Anthropology (LOA) is merged with MNM.	1987	Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (MIAC) opens to the public.
1911	Palace of the Governors renovation begins, led by Jesse Nusbaum.	1950	Folsom Site and Mesilla Plaza are made State Monuments.	1988	Hispanic Heritage Wing at MOIFA opens.
1913	<i>El Palacio</i> begins publication (November).	1953	Museum of International Folk Art (MOIFA) opened to the public (September 5).	1990	Office of Archaeological Studies created from the Research Section of the Laboratory of Anthropology.
1917	Museum of Fine Arts (now the New Mexico Museum of Art) dedicated (November 25).	1952	Contract Archaeology Program established by LOA.	1997	The Amy Rose Bloch Wing at MIAC opens.
1931	Laboratory of Anthropology (LOA) is dedicated and opened to the public (September 1).	1954	Highway Salvage (Archaeology) Program established by LOA.	1998	Neutrogena Wing at MOIFA opens.
1931	The New Mexico State Monuments system is established.	1959	Spanish Colonial Arts Department is incorporated into MOIFA.	2001	Milner Plaza opens on Museum Hill.
1935	State Monuments program is put under the administration of the Museum of New Mexico. Gran Quivira, Quarai, Jemez, Pecos and Coronado are established as State Monuments.	1959	MNM and SAR are separated by New Mexico Legislative Act.	2003	Governor Bill Richardson establishes cabinet level Department of Cultural Affairs, incorporating all of the Office of Cultural Affairs units.
1937	MNM Extension program begins the establishment of "Branch Museums."	1961	Palace is designated as a National Historic Landmark.	2004	Groundbreaking ceremonies are held for the New Mexico History Museum.
1937	Lincoln State Monument is established.	1962	Museum of New Mexico Foundation established.	2005	Bosque Redondo Memorial is dedicated and opens at Fort Sumner State Monument.
		1965	Pecos State Monument becomes Pecos National Monument.	2005	El Camino Real International Heritage Center State Monument is dedicated and opens.
		1968	Fort Sumner acquired as a State Monument.	2006	Taylor-Barela-Reynolds-Mesilla State Monument is dedicated.
		1974	Fort Selden State Monument is opened to public.	2007	Fort Stanton is designated as a State Monument.
		1977	HSNM collections (over 2,000 objects and thousands of documents) officially donated to MNM.		

*Compiled by Mike Stevenson
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