

NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM

The New Mexico History Museum Campus

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The New Mexico History Museum is the center of a diverse campus dedicated to New Mexico history, education and research. The 96,000-square-foot facility includes permanent and temporary exhibitions that span the history of indigenous people, Spanish colonization, the Mexican Period, and travel and commerce on the Santa Fe Trail through World War II to present-day New Mexico.



PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS ~ *Walls Stand as Witness to History*

The Palace of the Governors, the esteemed 400-year-old adobe building bordering the north block of the historic Santa Fe Plaza, is a beloved New Mexico treasure. Already 200 years old when the White House was being constructed, it has long been a destination for New Mexico's visitors and residents. The Palace will remain the New Mexico History Museum's most important artifact.

If it were flesh and blood, the building would have its own tales to tell, its own perspective on the fruit of four centuries of evolution and revolution. Originally constructed as Spain's seat of government in 1609, the Palace has been witness to countless events. Through its doors have passed Spanish soldiers, Pueblo peoples, Mexican governors, U.S. military personnel, New Mexico territorial governors, and merchants, fur trappers and settlers who came by the way of the legendary Santa Fe Trail. Inside the four-foot-thick walls, exhibitions will tell New Mexico's stories that took place within the Palace complex.

Among the long-term displays will be a celebration of the Native American Artisans Program, the Segesser Hides with depictions of early contact between Native peoples and Europeans, a gallery of Spanish colonial art that will touch on the influence of Spanish rule and culture, and an exhibit of New Mexico's devotional treasures, *Tesoros de Devoción: Objects of Devotion*. Also a permanent part of the Palace of the Governors is a Mexican Period *capilla* (little chapel). The capilla houses some of the exquisite *cristos* (*bultos* of Christ) and *crucifijos* (crucifixes), examples of the *santero* traditions of New Mexican devotional art. The chapel floor is an interesting traditional feature made of clay, dirt, water, straw and a natural hardener and sealant—animal blood.

The Palace has served as a New Mexico state history museum since 1909. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and an American Treasure in 1999, designations that elevate the Palace to the same status as Monticello, the Liberty Bell and other great monuments of American history.

NATIVE AMERICAN ARTISANS PROGRAM

The Portal, or porch, of the Palace of the Governors has long been a location where Native Americans and other New Mexicans have gathered to buy, sell and trade goods. The Native American Artisans Program, often called the "Portal Program," continues that tradition.

Since the Regents of the Museum of New Mexico reserved the Portal for use by only New Mexico Native Americans, the artisans have lined the Portal almost every day to sell sterling silver and beaded jewelry, pottery and other handcrafted wares. Every morning, Native American artists and craftspeople from around the state arrive at the Palace and draw lots for the 68 spaces available on the Portal. All participants are required to follow strict rules to ensure items are handmade by Native Americans using traditional materials. Internationally recognized, the Portal Program has provided incalculable economic benefit to Native Americans for generations and helped sustain traditional arts and crafts.



From top: Palace of the Governors; Nuestra Señora de San Juan de los Lagos, retablo from a collection of devotional art; Native American vendors on the Palace Portal.

T. HARMON PARKHURST
PHOTO, PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS (MNM/DCA),
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THE PRESS AT THE PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS

Situated in rooms adjoining the courtyard of the Palace, the Print Shop and Bindery, also known as the Palace Press, is where New Mexico's printing history comes to life.

A working exhibition dedicated to the state's printing traditions, the Palace Press offers visitors an opportunity to relive the lively environment of 19th-century publishing, a sensory world where working machinery clanks and groans, and the pungent smell of ink hangs in the air. Formidable iron and wood hand presses are situated behind wood railings next to rows of cabinets housing antique metal types, imposing tables of softly scarred marble, and sewing frames and "nipping" presses for hand-binding books and pamphlets. Racks and glass cases display newspapers with headlines chronicling Civil War battles and Indian raids, and "wanted" posters deliver a warning to some of the territory's most notorious desperadoes.

More than a collection of artifacts, the Palace Press is a vital center for the revival, stimulation and pursuit of the book arts. It publishes award-winning, limited-edition books and has a research library of more than 400 volumes available to the public during museum hours.

The newest exhibit in the print shop will be a re-creation of Gustave Baumann's New Mexico studio where the great artist and craftsman, a true genius of color and texture, created masterful prints and woodblock illustrations.



FRAY ANGÉLICO CHÁVEZ HISTORY LIBRARY

The Fray Angélico Chávez History Library is the institutional successor of New Mexico's oldest library. A non-circulating, closed-stack research facility, it preserves rare books, manuscripts and a vast collection of maps and other historical materials documenting the history of the state, the Southwest, and Meso-America from pre-European contact to the present.

The library is named for a Franciscan priest who was born in Wagon Mound, New Mexico, and became interested in missionary work with Native Americans when he was a boy. Angélico Chávez's concerns and studies took him from the Midwest to Harvard to military service overseas and, in time, home to New Mexico as archivist for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and more.

In keeping with its namesake, who was an author, poet, painter and historian, the Fray Angélico Chávez History Library hosts "Brainpower and Brownbags," an eclectic and ongoing lecture series, and offers an online catalog of its outstanding holdings of rare books and manuscript collections.

PHOTO ARCHIVES

The Palace of the Governors Photo Archives contains an estimated 800,000 historical photographic prints, cased photographs, glass negatives, film negatives, stereographs, photo postcards, panoramas, color transparencies and lantern slides. This important collection includes material of regional and national significance dating from approximately 1850 to the present, covering subject matter that focuses on the history and people of New Mexico and the expansion of the West, and also on the anthropology, archeology and ethnology of Hispanic and Native American cultures.

Some of the most important 19th- and 20th-century photographers of the West are represented in the collection. Among them are Adolph Bandelier, George C. Bennett, Wesley Bradfield, Nicholas Brown, W. C. Brown, W. H. Brown, Joseph Burge, John Candelario, D. B. Chase, W. H. Cobb, Edward S. Curtis, Nathaniel Frucht, Carter Harrison, F. Jay Haynes, John K. Hillers, William Henry Jackson, Charles Lindbergh, Charles Lummis, Karl Moon, Jesse Nusbaum, Timothy H. O'Sullivan, T. Harmon Parkhurst, H. F. Robinson, Adam Clark Vroman and Ben Wittick.

Photo Archives has a searchable, online database of thousands of digitized images and a knowledgeable staff who can assist or advise.



*From top:
Representation of a
historical press; map
from the Palace
collection; Indian
Detour Cadillacs at
Santa Clara Pueblo,
ca. 1920.*

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