As placemarking architecture, where construction materials connect generations with remarkable visual consistency, and where social and cultural values are evident in the building fabric, few American institutions communicate a sense of place more vividly than the University of New Mexico.

Richard Dober
Campus Design
It takes more than the profile or outward appearance of its buildings to make a university, but if aesthetics mean anything in the intellectual development of students, and I feel certain it does, then the University of New Mexico has an asset which gives it a unique position among the institutions of the nation.

Thomas L. Popejoy
Campus Preservation Committee
Terry Gugliotta, University Archivist, Committee Chair
Steve Borbas, University Planner
Roger Lujan, University Architect
Mary Vosevich, Director, Physical Plant Department
Chris Wilson, J.B. Jackson Professor of Cultural Landscape Studies, School of Architecture and Planning
Richard Chapman, Director, Office of Contract Archeology
Charlene Chavez, Associate Director, Alumni Relations

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Van Citters: Historic Preservation, LLC would like to thank the Campus Preservation Committee and in particular: Terry Gugliotta for her general project support and research efforts to ensure valid historic data for the various project components; Chris Wilson for his preservation philosophy and review of survey forms; Dr. Richard Chapman for his continual support and input on the nominations; and Steve Borbas for his contributions and support of the preservation plan. Carolyn Gonzales, University Communication and Marketing, Sr. Communication Representative, while not a formal member of the committee, attended all meetings and provided key information and support to VCHP during the project.

We would also like to thank Will Moses for his support in completing the student property survey and developing the landscape plans that were used in this report, as well as, Cynthia Martin for her photography skills in documenting the historic properties shown in this report. In addition we would like to thank John Ralph and Christina Munoz for their window survey that was added to the historic building survey forms.

In addition we would like to thank Edie Cherry for teaming with our firm – her insight into cultural landscapes issues, the university environment and architecture, and overall project organizational skills were of great value to the project and final product of this plan.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of New Mexico is comprised of buildings and landscapes that offer students, faculty, and staff a variety of places in which to feel the many facets of university life – exhilaration, camaraderie, reflection, and solitude. Its campus setting evokes a unique “sense of place” among those who have experienced its often subconscious qualities. Alterations or changes to these familiar places can draw out new emotions, such sadness or loss. As such, it is critical that the University does not forget its heritage and the places that make it not only architecturally unique and interesting, but a comfortable place to be in the world for all those who enter onto its campus.

Not unlike most other large institutions, the University campus reveals the pressures that drive so many universities to defer maintenance; streamline, reconfigure, recycle, remodel and remove older buildings; add new structures that challenge or threaten the integrity of its campus heritage; adapt precious landscapes to utilitarian purposes; and expand beyond the recognizable boundaries that for many years defined the campus. Several significant structures and landscapes have been lost to demolition and others have been compromised by poorly conceived renovations. As a result, a Historic Preservation Committee was established and the Regents have set policy calling for the preservation of all “buildings, landscapes and places or objects of historic significance.”

This plan stems from the development of the Historic Preservation Committee and the Regents policy and was funded by a grant from the Getty Foundation. The plan establishes heritage preservation zones which include historic buildings, landscapes and open spaces important to the character of the campus, and the relationships between those buildings and landscapes.

In a world that is increasingly tending to think alike and look alike, it is important to cherish and preserve those elements in our culture that belong to us and help differentiate us. We are fortunate in this region in that we have a style of architecture that uniquely belong to us and visually evokes memories of our history and our earth itself.

John Gaw Meem, 1960
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