



EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

First Quarter

SPECIAL EDITION

February 2022

🌀 STONE HOUSE EDITION 🌀

This is a special edition of the EMHS Newsletter. Its sole purpose is to let members know EMHS has been offered the dilapidated stone house at the corner of North NM 14 and Cirquela (across from the Chevron station, also known as the home of Dulcinea Sanchez) for use as a permanent headquarters and cultural/educational/visitor's center. The EMHS Board wants to know whether you would like our organization to accept this offer.

The stone house was purchased in September by Chuck Jackson, a descendant of the original owner of the property. Jackson has expressed an interest in donating the building as a permanent home for EMHS and to honor his family and grandparents, Lawrence Selva and Mary Campo.

The historic house was built on land purchased in the 1880s by Charles Campo. At various times, it has included a bar, store and post office. Campo made wine from locally grown grapes and kept it in large wine barrels in the cellar. Above the cellar was a dance hall and kitchen. In 1930, Dulcinea and Flaviano Sanchez moved into the stone house, a few weeks after their marriage. They held fiestas, weddings and occasional Saturday night dances in the hall until it was partially destroyed by a car that veered into it from the road. The dance hall was torn down in the mid-1940s. Dulcinea, who was an honorary EMHS member, liked to tell fellow members about her basement's moonshine still.



Stone House view from Cirquela Road after grounds clean-up in January. *Photo by Rick Holben*



Stone House view from NM 14 in January. *Photo by Denise Tessier*

Today, the property needs a tremendous amount of work. Windows and walls are broken, large portions of the roof are missing and it lacks working utilities. It does have a historic acequia ditch on the property, quite a bit of outdoor space, including land that could be used for parking, and a courtyard where EMHS could host fundraisers. Its location on North 14 is prime.

To take Mr. Jackson up on his offer, the EMHS Board needs to ensure we have a planning committee of 12 to 15 people with specific skills (see a skills list on pg. 2) to get the project launched and on good structural, financial and legal footing. Our goal is to develop a five-year plan for a permanent home – to house EMHS collections, serve as an office and interactive museum open to the public, and provide a venue for cultural and historic events for the East Mountains. Once a viable five-year plan is developed for restoration of the property, EMHS will seek historic preservation grants to develop the property.

Continued on page 2

The EMHS Board needs to know whether the membership wants us to proceed.

Please read all the information in this Newsletter.

If you received this Newsletter by postal mail, please return by postal mail the enclosed ballot with a vote of yay or nay with regard to accepting this donation.

If you receive the Newsletter by email, an electronic ballot link is in the email itself.

PLEASE RESPOND BY MARCH 11.

Because you likely have questions about this project, we will hold a Zoom meeting for all members at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 8 on this topic. A meeting Zoom link will be sent via email.

VOTING FORM CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 7.

Skills Needed for the Planning Committee For the Stone House Restoration

EMHS seeks members, their friends, associates, and/or relatives, who have skills in any of these fields:

- Architecture
- Civil Engineering
- Real Estate law
- Zoning
- Accounting (CPA, bookkeeping)
- Recording secretary/word processing
- Historic preservation
- Grant writing
- Fund-raising
- Governmental entities liaison
- Historian
- Communications and publicity
- Graphics
- Photography
- Videography
- Construction
- Landscaping/gardening
- Event Planning
- Hospitality/Donor relations
- Proof-reading and editing
- Leadership

East Mountain Historical Society

Newsletter

Published Quarterly

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the East Mountain Historical Society is to identify, preserve and present to the public the history and culture of the East Mountain area. EMHS will assist in protecting historical and landscapes, artifacts, records, or any item considered to be of historical significance. EMHS will also identify, collect and archive historical material of significance to the area.

“In my opinion, unless we can cover at least a dozen of these skills by our members or other volunteers they recruit, we will not have the capacity to undertake the project.” – EMHS President Robyn Hoffman

Message From the Property Owner

Chuck Jackson shared reasons for his interest in working with EMHS to preserve the property:

“My mother, maiden name Norma Secundina Selva, was the daughter of Mary (Campo) Selva and Lawrence Selva. The two families have a long history in the East Mountains as documented in your history of the area (*Timelines of the East Mountains*). Mary and Lawrence had five children – my aunts and uncles – who all lived and worked in the Albuquerque area. They have all passed in the last 10 years. Mary and Lawrence’s siblings produced nine grandchildren, including myself.

“The property at 12010 Highway 14 was the home that my grandmother was born in. I had heard stories of the area from my grandmother, but never was able to enter the home. Grandma passed in 1986, so all of her stories are quite old now and my memory has faded somewhat.”

Jackson wrote that he and his wife “were out for a Sunday drive this summer and in passing we saw the for sale sign on the property. My interest peaked, and after walking around the area I called the agent who had the listing and acquired the property. Not knowing exactly what to do with it but feeling bonded to it, I felt it was a good acquisition.”

At about the same time, he said he “began to do a little study of the history and became acquainted with the East Mountain Historical Society. After seeing its success and projects, including the wonderful book, I offered to work with the group on preserving this historical location.”

“. . . (I) will need more official advice before I can provide terms of my offer, but that doesn’t mean that I can’t share my vision of what I would like to see happen. I am in a position to donate the property to the society. Certainly I want to take tax advantages of the donation, would like to receive family recognition for

the donation and we all understand that an appraisal will need to take place to authenticate values. But most importantly it has to be a successful endeavor and taken to completion.”

“I would foresee a clause in the donation that provides some safeguards that the intent of the donation is used in that manner and that completion is done in a acceptable time frame. I’m thinking five years but everything is up to discussion.”

Preliminary Structural Assessment

In November, at Robyn’s request, retired engineer Joel Darold walked the perimeter of the property, looked into the windows and offered some observations (based on that limited investigation):

- In classic N.M. fashion, additions were built, as seen in different construction methods and materials.

- The stone work on the western structure (original building?) is laminated on the outside, over walls that look to be stacked, natural, area stones, using either local mud or lime mortar.

- The eastern addition(s) with no roof structure may be unsalvageable as years of exposure have possibly eroded the integrity of the walls. We noticed several large cracks and separations in the walls...

- We couldn’t determine what the foundation construction is. Further inspection from inside, maybe a little shovel work around the perimeter, and inspection from the basement . . . should give more clues.

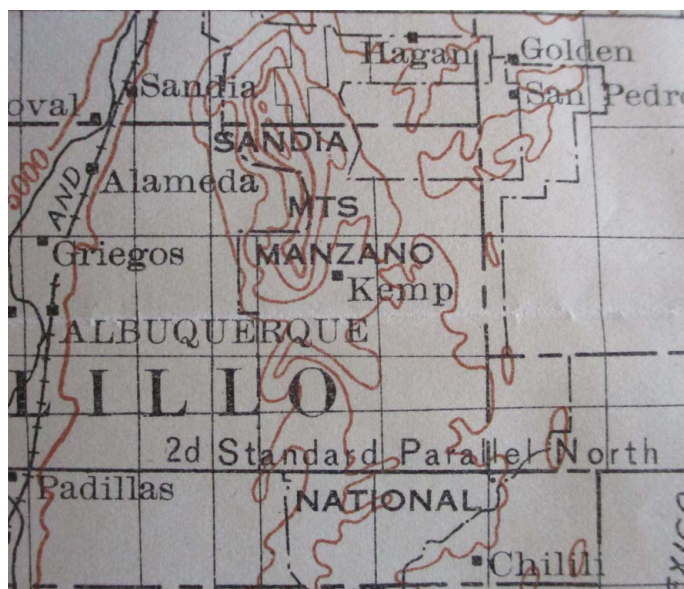
- Roof on the western structure is a t-lock shingle system, probably layered over older roofing. The roof has clearly been leaking for a long time so I’d suspect some roof structure damage.

- I’d suspect the Electrical/Plumbing/Mechanical systems would need to be totally replaced.

Century-Old Stone House Sits on Part of Original ‘Second Plaza’ of San Antonio

By Rick Holben

Nearly all of us have driven past the stone house at Cirquela Road and North 14, likely not realizing the history that has unfolded there over the almost two centuries since the Cañon de Carnué grant was settled and allotments granted at San Antonio de Padua. For the past 25 years or so, the unassuming house at 12010 North Highway 14, with its mid 20th century veneer of flagstone, has been vacant and deteriorating. Under the flagstone is a stone building dating back more than 100 years, sitting on what was originally part of the second plaza of San Antonio.



Although the Kemp post office location in the Campo Store at San Antonio was short-lived, it made its way onto maps printed in the 1907-1909 era. *Courtesy Rick Holben*

In 1819, when the Cañon de Carnué grant was settled, allotments were granted to 22 families on the grant’s northeast boundary at San Antonio de Padua. The original plaza the families inhabited was located east on Cirquela, near what until recently was the therapeutic boarding school Villa Santa Maria. Shortly after this plaza was established it was moved west, near North NM-14 and Cirquela Road. This plaza was inhabited for several decades before the third and final plaza was established near where San Antonio de Padua church stands today.

In 1887, Carlos Campo purchased land that included what is now the stone house from Josepha Gurule. Gurule was the widow of Juan Zamora, who was killed in an altercation at Henry Carpenter’s saloon in 1881. Zamora had written a will just a year earlier, in 1880, which is part of the state records in Santa Fe. The will details Zamora’s properties and how they would be divided by his spouse and nine children at

his death. That property included the family home and flour mill, or “El Molino,” located in the “Cañon of Primera Agua”. That home still stands on South Zamora Road. The will also lists four plots of land, three located in San Antonio. The descriptions given make it hard to determine exactly which one describes the property sold to Campo in 1887. Jose Garcia Zamora, Juan Zamora’s father, received one of the original allotments at San Antonio de Padua in 1820 and perhaps included this particular land. Oral histories from the area recall that when Carlos Campo purchased this land, it contained remnants of buildings from the second plaza settlement, including an exterior wall with round apertures in it for firing muskets in the event of an Indian raid. The wall is said to have still been standing into the early 20th century.

Carlos Campo was born about 1856 in Italy. By 1885 he was living in Albuquerque, and soon after moved to San Antonio where he built a home, store and saloon/dance hall on the property purchased from Josepha Gurule. Campo was also active in local politics and operated lime kilns in the East Mountain area. The Campos

had an orchard and vineyard watered by the San Antonio Acequia. In 1899, Carlos Campo married Dina Gatta, the widow of Ignacio Selva, who had been killed in 1896 by sheepherders who were bringing sheep through Tijeras Canyon for Roswell rancher Fritz Brink. Dina had three children from her marriage to Ignacio Selva, including Angelina and Olympia, who lived with Dina and Carlos in San Antonio. After her marriage to Carlos Campo, she had two more children, daughter Mary and son Joe, with all four living at the home into the 1910s.

By the early 1900s, the Campo family was well known and quite successful in business in the East Mountains. They were now using a variation of their name – “Kemp” – and in 1907 a “Kemp” post office was established in their store. The office replaced the prior post office of “Carpenter” and was only in operation for one year, closing in 1908. In 1917, the Tijeras post office was located in the family store and Dina Kemp was postmistress. She served until 1924, when her husband Carlos died. Carl Webb then took over as postmaster and soon after moved the office to his Cedar Crest Resort just up the road, where he renamed it “Cedar Crest”. Dina Campo died in 1929 and was buried next to Carlos in Albuquerque’s Mount Cavalry Cemetery.



The Campo home, saloon and dance hall in 1918. The primitive dirt trail running past it is now the heavily traveled four-lane NM-14. Walls on the east side of the building appear to show an area next to the dance hall – perhaps including walls from the second plaza settlement of San Antonio, which was said to still be standing into the early 20th century with its gun turret holes. Across the road to the west is a stone building identified as the San Antonio school, probably one of the many schools built through the efforts of Antanacio Montoya. What became of the school is somewhat of a mystery, as during research for Timelines of the East Mountains, references were found from the early 1930s to construction of the old stone school that still stands in San Antonio a bit south of this building. That stone school was built by and with community support, replacing an old wooden building that was reportedly falling over, which does not appear to describe what we see here as a school in 1918. *Courtesy Glazebrook Family*

In 1930, Dulcinea Armenta of Primera Agua married Flaviano Sanchez of San Antonio and three weeks later they purchased the old Campo house and store. In 1989 and 1990, EMHS co-founder Joyce Mendel interviewed Dulcinea Sanchez at her home, the stone house in San Antonio. Through these interviews we can glean some insight into what the building was like and what remained not long after the Campo family had been living there and running the store, saloon and dance hall. When Dulcinea and Flaviano Sanchez moved into the property in 1930, there was no indoor plumbing and water came from a well in the basement, which fed a hand pump in the kitchen. According to Dulcinea, the Campos used the west room as the bar; she turned it into her living room. She recalled that every room had a fireplace, but she got rid of all except one. A large room on the east side, which jutted southward toward Cirquela Road, was the dance hall. The Sanchez family continued to use the old dance hall for Saturday night dances, weddings and other community events. About 1945, a car driving on what was then NM-10 (NM-14) skidded off the road and destroyed a wall of the dance hall. The Sanchezes never repaired it and later tore the building down. She recalled that walls of the dance hall had large pictures painted on them.

Flaviano Sanchez added the house’s flagstone siding; originally it was plaster over stone. According to Dulcinea, the original entrance was at “the back” of her home when the Campos owned it, and when she and

Flaviano moved in there was an old moonshine still in the basement.

Flaviano Sanchez died in 1981. Dulcinea remained in the house until her death in 2003 at the age of 95. In the early 1990s, she still drank and cooked with water from the acequia on the north side of the property. Since her death the vacant building has passed through several owners, just waiting for a chance at new life and to continue being a part of history in the East Mountains.

*Editor's Note: Rick Holben wrote many stories in TIMELINES OF THE EAST MOUNTAINS and has continued to do research since its 2020 publication. Those who have purchased the book are invited to clip this 2022 article and add it to the book's **People** section under Charles Campo.*

Dina Campo and children



This photo circa 1908 shows Dina Gatta-Campo (in front of the door) with her four children, from left, Mary, Olympia, Joe and Angelina. Mary Campo was born about 1901, grew up in San Antonio and married Lawrence Selva, the only child of Fernando and Secundina Selva, who ran the Selva Resort and Saloon at the mouth of Tijeras Canyon. Fernando Selva was the brother of Ignacio Selva, to whom Dina Gatta was first married. The two older girls in the photo, Angelina and Olympia, were daughters of Dina and Ignacio. Jennifer Buffington, who allowed us to copy this photo for EMHS, is the granddaughter of Mary Campo. In the 1970s, while attending the University of New Mexico, Jennifer lived in Albuquerque with her grandmother, who told her stories of growing up in San Antonio in the early 1900s. One story she remembers well is of her grandmother hiding behind a rock as a child, watching the Penitentes "beating the evil spirits out of themselves" with whips during ceremonies at San Antonio. Mary Campo also would tell stories about how the girls growing up in the East Mountains were "as tough as any of the boys" and that families in the East Mountains were close and looked out for each other. *Courtesy Jennifer Buffington.*

Voting Ballot

for Members Who Get a Mailed Paper Newsletter

(Those who receive the Newsletter by email will receive, in that same email, an electronic ballot link.)

Now that you've read about the project, please indicate your preference by checking one:

_____ Yes, we should proceed with this opportunity.

_____ No, we should not accept the property donation.

Skills/resources that I can provide in support of the Stone House Project:

Please indicate whether you also have a spouse, relative or friend or colleague interested and willing to help with this project:

Comments: _____

Member's name: _____

Member's address: _____

Member's contact information (email, phone): _____

Family memberships may submit two ballots. (Please copy this and send the two ballots together.)

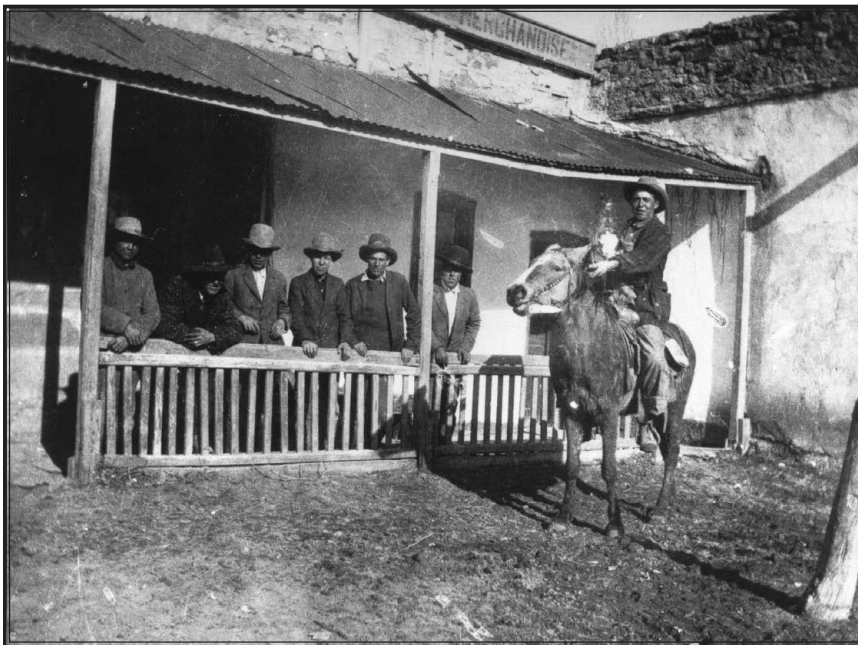
Please feel free to continue your comments on an additional piece of paper and include it with your ballot. Mail to EMHS, PO Box 106, Tijeras, NM 87059 (envelope enclosed).

Please vote on this important matter.

Note: If the membership votes against accepting the donation, we will not accept it.

If the members approve it, the board reserves the right to decline the donation if it does not appear EMHS has the support or legal means necessary to preserve the property.

East Mountain Historical Society
P.O. Box 106
Tijeras, NM 87059



The store at the Charles Campo home in San Antonio, sometime before 1930. The wall at right was part of the dance hall torn down in the mid-1940s. Pablo Gonzales is on the horse. *Part of the EMHS Collection, courtesy of Dulcinea Sanchez*

Special Edition Newsletter: Please Open Right Away
YOUR VOTE IS REQUESTED BY MARCH 11